

AUG 17 SERIES BOMB BLASTS
JMB WEAK BUT
STILL A THREAT
SEE PAGE 12

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Your Right to Know

ZILHAJI 26, 1441 HURI

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BANGLADESH
UPDATE



2,024
New cases in 24hrs



2,76,549
Total cases



3,657
Deaths



1,58,950
Recoveries



GLOBAL
UPDATE



770,523
Deaths



21,700,593
Total cases

FAMILIES OF TEKNAF 'GUNFIGHT' VICTIMS

The false hope of 'public hearing'

Probe body had closed-door meeting with pre-selected persons over Sinha killing

ZYMA ISLAM FROM TEKNAF with MUHAMMAD ALI JINNAH

People taking turns to talk on a particular issue, placing testimonials, and administrators listening cautiously and coming up with certain commitments publicly is how a public hearing takes place. And people in Teknaf turned up at the office of the in-charge of Rohingya Camp-23 at 10:00am yesterday expecting something like this.

But a public hearing is not what they got. At 11:25am, a high-level investigation committee, formed by the home ministry to investigate the killing of Major (retd) Sinha Rashed Khan in police firing, began a closed-door meeting at the office in Shamlapur area, only with a handful of preselected persons. The meeting continued till 4:40pm and those persons were sent home through a back door.

Journalists were not allowed to talk to any of them.

The hearing was organised by the committee to take accounts of witnesses to the killing on July 31 night. An

announcement in this regard was made in a circular issued on August 11.

Throughout the entire day yesterday, the office, except the room where the meeting took place, was packed to the brim with so many journalists that one could easily mistake it for a get-together of the Crime Reporters' Association.

Aggrieved locals victimised by the justice and policing systems in Teknaf came to participate in the hearing, so did a crowd of usual bystanders, but to no avail.

Both sides of roads there were lined with vehicles of any and all law-enforcement agencies, and they too stood along with the crowds. A child with a bucket of overripe hog plums made a brisk business selling the snack. Any airborne flu viruses would have had a field day.

Asked about the hearing, the high-level investigation committee's convener -- Additional Divisional Commissioner (Development) Mahmud Mizanur Rahman -- said, "It was a hearing of the 'public', but it was not meant to be a public hearing per say. We had spread the news in different

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An elderly man walking across a makeshift bamboo bridge in Mirpur's Bishil area in the capital yesterday. For nearly two months, this road has been under filthy water. Locals said the drains in the area have been cleaned but the water remains because it is a low-lying area.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Flying thru local airports gets costlier

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Air travellers using the services of the airports in Bangladesh will have to pay additional charges as authorities imposed airport development and passenger safety fees effective from yesterday.

All airlines operating to and from Bangladesh started collecting fees with tickets. Outbound passengers flying to Saarc countries have to pay 6 USD for passenger safety and 5 USD for airport development while those flying to other countries have to pay 10 USD for airport development and the same amount for passenger safety fees.

Domestic passengers, however, are being charged Tk 70 for passenger safety and Tk 100 for airport development. M Mohibul Haque, senior secretary of civil aviation and tourism ministry, said, "Such fees seem new to us, but the fact is all countries across the globe have already imposed such fees."

He also said the amount charged is far less than that other countries have been charging. The senior secretary said the money will be spent for airport development and passenger security.

Development work is going on in all

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

RECONDITIONED CARS Import drops by 60pc in Ctg



MOHAMMAD SUMAN

The import of reconditioned cars has dropped by 60 percent in fiscal year (FY) 2019-20 compared to the previous FY 2018-19 due to tariff inequality and declining sales.

Customs House Chattogram (CHC) authorities have earned Tk 253 crore as revenue in FY 2019-20 whereas it earned Tk 651 crore as import duty from the cars in FY 2018-19.

According to the CHC, the authorities earned Tk 223 crore as revenue from the import of 5,223 reconditioned cars in FY-2019-20, which was Tk 651 crore from the import of 13,044 such vehicles in FY2018-19.

That suggests the import of reconditioned cars has decreased by 7,821 or 60 percent through Chattogram port in one year.

Car importers said that the import of reconditioned cars dropped due to the government's tariff inequality which was increasing the import duty and its declining sales in domestic market of these vehicles.

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CAPSIZE IN BAY

They stuck together and survived

14 men rescued after 21 hours in water

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

After being afloat for over 21 hours in the Bay, all 14 crew members of a lighter vessel that capsized Saturday morning at Hatiya channel were rescued by local fishermen.

They had been afloat with life jackets and some buoys tied together.

"All the time while trying to survive amid heavy waves we had the belief that if we could stick together we all could be rescued," Nurul Amin, a 45 year-old driver of the vessel, said while narrating their ordeal over phone.

The vessel MV Akhter Banu-1 was heading for Narayanganj after loading 1,700 tonnes of imported wheat from a mother vessel

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

ADMISSION AT PUBLIC UNIVS Centralised tests now uncertain

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Covid-19 pandemic has thrown into uncertainty the introduction of centralised admission tests at public universities this year.

Following a meeting with the vice chancellors of public universities, the University Grants Commission in February decided to introduce the new system styled "Central Admission Test" for 2020-2021 academic year to reduce hassles of admission seekers.

But now doubts have cropped up about its introduction this year, as the committees formed to lay down the procedures and methods of the new admission system could not work properly due to the pandemic, a top UGC official told this newspaper, seeking anonymity.

The government had shut down all educational institutions on March 17 following the detection of the first Covid-19 case in the country at the beginning of that month. The shutdown was extended till August 31.

It remains uncertain when the institutions will reopen.

"We cannot say anything for sure about the central admission tests for public universities. We will sit next month to discuss the issue. There are possibilities that the central admission tests will not be held this year. But we will try our best to hold those," UGC Chairman Prof Kazi Shahidullah told The Daily Star yesterday.

He pointed out the reopening of the universities depends on the coronavirus situation and also health experts' recommendations.

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THE BUSINESS

CPD Decries BBS GDP Estimate

Less than a week ago the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics announced that Bangladesh attained a 5.24 per cent GDP growth rate in fiscal 2019-20. It beat forecasts of 1.6 per cent, 3.8 per cent and 4.5 per cent by World Bank, International Monetary Fund and Asian Development Bank respectively. The Centre for Policy Dialogue, with its own assumption of 2.5 per cent, yesterday termed this difference an infatuation with growth aimed at gaining political leverage.

STORY ON B1

Malaysia finds '10 times more infectious' Covid strain

THE STAR/ANN

A mutation of the coronavirus that is far more infectious than the original Wuhan strain has been detected in Malaysia, the health authorities said yesterday.

The D614G mutation was discovered by the Malaysian Institute for Medical Research in four cases from two Covid-19 clusters in the country - the Sivagangga cluster and the Ulu Tiram cluster, said health chief Noor Hisham Abdullah in a Facebook post on Sunday.

According to Datuk Dr Hisham, the discovery of the mutation means people need to be more careful and continue being disciplined in practising safety measures such as social distancing, personal hygiene and wearing of masks.

"It's found to be 10 times more infectious and is easily spread by an individual 'super spreader'," he said, of

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A member of a voluntary organisation on Facebook placing a face mask on a rickshawpuller as part of the group's efforts to help Dhaka dwellers stave off the threat of coronavirus infection. This photo was taken in front of the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BIODEGRADABLE PPE Bangladeshi makes it with jute, crabs

Scientist behind jute polymer, Sonali Bag has another success

HELEMUL ALAM

In some good news for the country, a scientist, who also discovered jute polymer and is behind the invention of "Sonali Bag", has come up with a method of making biodegradable protective gear in a promising solution to the additional environmental pollution during the coronavirus pandemic.

Dr Mubarak Ahmad Khan, scientific adviser to Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation, came up with the material, now at the conceptual stage, to prepare personal protective equipment (PPE) which is biodegradable and non-toxic.

Indiscriminate disposal of hazardous Covid-19 related plastic waste could cause significant environmental pollution as well as potentially help spread infectious diseases, said experts.

The scientist said the main components of this PPE are cellulose, extracted from jute fibre, and chitosan -- a natural fibrous material obtained from the hard outer skeleton of shellfish such as crab, lobster, and shrimp.

Both jute and shrimp are easily available materials in Bangladesh and the extraction processes of cellulose and chitosan and preparation of the biopolymers are environmentally friendly and cost-effective, he added.

The biodegradable component of the PPE -- as of the Sonali Bag -- is the cellulose, and the chitosan will protect from Covid-19 and other viruses, said Mubarak.

Chitosan has been shown to provide anti-viral immune

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Zia, Khaleda went for politics of killings

Says PM

Bss, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused former president Ziaur Rahman and his wife Khaleda Zia of resorting to the politics of killings and enacting indemnity laws to save the killers of Bangabandhu and Awami League leaders and activists.

"After assuming the office through the October 1, 2001, farcical national election, Khaleda Zia had started indiscriminate killings of people following the footsteps of her husband Ziaur Rahman," she said.

Referring to the killing of numerous innocent people, including AL leaders and activists, in the name of the so-called "Operation Clean Heart", Hasina, also the AL president, said the BNP-Jamaat alliance government initiated the culture of extrajudicial killings in the country through it.

The PM said this while taking part in a virtual discussion through a videoconference from the Gono Bhaban marking the National Mourning Day and the 45th anniversary of martyrdom of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



The AL organised the discussion at its central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the afternoon.

Hasina said Khaleda had given indemnity to the wholesale killings after assuming the office in 2001 so that trials of those crimes could not be held as her husband did the same thing with giving indemnity to the killers of Bangabandhu.

She accused again Ziaur Rahman of his involvement in the killing of Bangabandhu, saying that he gave all sorts of support to the killers.

"Zia even gave lucrative foreign postings to the killers of Bangabandhu, while his wife brought self-confessed killer of Bangabandhu to parliament by rigging votes," she added.

AL General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader gave introductory speech while the party's Publicity and Publication Secretary Abdus Sobhan Golap moderated the function.

At the beginning of the discussion, a one-minute silence was observed as a mark of profound respect to the memories of Bangabandhu and other martyrs of the August 15 carnage.

Flying thru local airports

FROM PAGE 1

the airports in Bangladesh while different works are on to ensure security at the airports, he added.

If anyone buys a return ticket they will have to pay the fees with the tickets and the money will be collected through IATA (International Air Transport Association), not in cash. Officials in the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab) said on top of the fees, passengers will also have to pay 15 percent value-added tax (VAT), making air travel costlier than before in a time of crisis, Caab officials said.

The government is expecting about Tk 600 crore annually from the fees, they added. The Caab requires around Tk 4,000 crore annually to operate the airports in Bangladesh.

BIMAN TO REISSUE RETURN TICKETS

Meanwhile, Biman Bangladesh Airlines will reissue tickets to all passengers who bought return tickets

on the Dhaka-Dubai and Dhaka-Abu Dhabi routes but could not travel due to the Covid-19 pandemic, BSS reported yesterday.

No extra charge will be imposed, said a press release of the civil aviation and tourism ministry, adding that once the reissuance of the return tickets is completed, the sale of new tickets will begin.

Besides, when the Abu Dhabi authorities will approve the September 2020 schedule for the Abu Dhabi route, the sale of Biman tickets for September will resume.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines is currently operating six flights per week on the Dhaka-Abu Dhabi-Dhaka route, six flights on Dhaka-Dubai-Dhaka route, one flight on Dhaka-London-Dhaka route, two flights on Dhaka-Kuala Lumpur-Dhaka route, two flights on Dhaka-Guangzhou-Dhaka route and two flights on Dhaka-Hong Kong-Dhaka route.

They stuck together

FROM PAGE 1

at the outer anchorage of the Chattogram Port early Saturday.

While crossing Hatia channel the vessel faced heavy seas.

Due to the waves, the cargo shifted causing the vessel to list and capsize, he said.

When the vessel started listing all crew members put on their life jackets, tied some buoys with rope and jumped into the sea together.

"The sea was very rough and the weather was bad but we tried to be together holding the rope of buoys", Amin said. He added that over the hours they failed to see any vessel or boat.

"In the morning today [yesterday] we could see a fishing boat and started crying for help. When the fishermen saw us they rushed and rescued us, said Amin.

Amin who have been working in

lighter vessels on Chattogram-Dhaka and Dhaka-Mongla route for 20 years said it was the first accident he ever had.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Hatia Police Station Abul Khair said the fishermen who rescued the crew members took them to Surjomukhi Bazar of Hatia where they were treated and fed.

Following the accident, another lighter vessel, MV SS Helencha-2, looked for the missing crew members at Bhasanchar coast over the night.

Sohel Mahmud, master of SS Helencha-2, said, "Hearing their rescue we went to Surjomukhi Bazar and found all in good health."

Parvez Mohammad, representative of the vessel's owning firm M/s NI Traders, said they went to salvage the sunken vessel which was found near Bhasanchar coast around 1km off from the navigation channel.

Import drops by 60pc

FROM PAGE 1

Abdul Haque, president of the Bangladesh Reconditioned Vehicles Importers and Dealers Association (Barvida), told The Daily Star, "The price difference between a reconditioned and a brand new car is very insignificant due to the reduction in the depreciation facility offered by the government.

"Customs is imposing duty on brand new imported vehicles on the basis of prices mentioned in the invoice but this method are not followed on reconditioned cars. Customs authorities imposed fixed price on an imported reconditioned cars and for this reason we have to pay Tk 2 lakh to Tk 3 lakh as additional duty. As a result, our sales have also come down due to higher prices of cars."

"Due to the nominal difference of import duty between brand new and reconditioned vehicles, the government is losing a large chunk of potential revenue from the sector, he said, adding that "Car prices are now out of reach for many buyers. If the government reduces duty on reconditioned vehicles, car imports will increase and the government will earn more revenue form the sector."

Meanwhile, the National Board of Revenue considers the yellow book price -- the international yardstick for car prices -- for duty assessment of imported reconditioned cars. However, importers buy their cars below the price mentioned in the yellow book.

Monzurul Alam Chowdhury,

former vice president of Barvida, who is also the managing director of Multination Company Ltd, told The Daily Star, "Due to the high duty on the import of reconditioned vehicles, the selling price of cars also becomes too high. Around 850 reconditioned vehicle importers had involved the sector but now most of the importers are leaving the business."

Reconditioned vehicle traders have to pay 31 percent to 826 percent in import duty depending on car engine capacity, apart from 15 percent VAT, 5 percent Advance Tax, 5 percent Regulatory Duty, and 4 percent advance trade VAT on tariff value.

Malaysia finds

FROM PAGE 1

the mutation.

He said the strain was found in preliminary tests and that follow-up tests would be conducted on other cases including the index cases of both clusters.

He added that the D614G mutation was discovered by scientists in July 2020, and could render existing vaccine research incomplete or ineffective against the new strain.

Nevertheless he noted that the swift action by Malaysia's public health authorities has controlled the virus' spread from the affected clusters.

Malaysia reported 26 new cases on Saturday, bringing the total number of infections so far to 9,175. No new fatalities were reported, keeping the death toll at 125.



Several hundred people line up in front of the Biman Bangladesh Airlines office in Motiheel to buy tickets yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

The false hope

FROM PAGE 1

areas that there will be a public hearing for witnesses to the crime [Sinha killing]. Some people approached us and we did a preliminary selection based on what testimonials they had to offer. We took their names and addresses, and those were the people who spoke today," he said.

There were a total of nine preselected people who were interviewed in private by the committee. "Taking their testimonials in front of everyone could have jeopardized them and also the investigation. Once the interviews were over, we let them out through a back door and asked them to go home, so that they do not face any journalists, and don't tell anyone what we spoke about," said ADC Rahman.

He added that they have spoken to 60 people so far in connection with the Sinha killing.

Meanwhile, the announcement of a "public hearing" taking place was misunderstood by locals as being a public hearing for the families of all victims of "crossfire" or "gunfights" with the police in the upazila in Cox's Bazar and quite unintentionally, families of such victims gathered at the office yesterday.

While their testimonials were not relevant to the investigation committee, those people had something to say.

At least 87 people have been killed in 48 incidents of "gunfight" involving Teknaf police alone between August 1, 2018, and August 1, 2020, according to an analysis of reports published in The Daily Star.

Pradipt Kumar, one of the main accused in Sinha killing, took over as officer-in-charge of Teknaf Model Police Station on October 19, 2018.

A total of 107 incidents of

"shootouts" in Cox's Bazar, including 48 in Teknaf, were recorded by this newspaper during the same two-year period. At least 184 people, including 65 Rohingya, were killed in those incidents.

Families who've their near ones in so-called gun-fights with law enforcers are often too scared to speak up, but they congregated to do so yesterday. Burkha-clad mothers who lost their sons, and wives who lost their husbands lifted the visors off their faces and broke down in front of television cameras, seeking justice.

Abeda Khatun came from Shilkhali village, accompanied by her two daughters and a son, hoping to be able to tell the story of how her husband was killed in a "gunfight". "About 11 months ago, my husband Abdul Amin was picked up by the police from our home. It was early in the morning he had just woken up when they came. The kept him for seven or eight days and then they 'gave him crossfire' around 11:30 at night," the woman told The Daily Star yesterday.

Another mother who lost her two sons to "gunfights", came to the hearing with her widowed daughter-in-law. "My husband Md Hossain Kamal was picked up by law enforcers on October 22, 2018, and 'given the crossfire' on October 29. We live in Najirpara of Teknaf," said Rukia Akhter. "His body was found in Shah Porir Dwip."

A man named Abdur Rashid came and claimed that his brother, Abdul Jalil, was in the custody of the Teknaf police for eight months before being found dead following an incident of "gunfight".

"My brother went missing on December 2, 2019, and showed up dead in West Maheshkhali Para last July. He was picked up because of a

land-related squabble. Two months into his disappearance, we even filed a general diary with the Teknaf police station," he said showing the copy of the GD.

"I got to know that he was inside the police station all this time -- he used to tell my phone number to anyone who was taken into the police station. Some of them could memorise the number and called me afterwards," he said.

In another development, jail authorities in Cox's Bazar said Pradeep Kumar Das, Inspector Liaqat Ali and Sub-inspector Nandadul Rakshit, accused of murdering Maj (ret'd) Sinha, have been given their own cells to protect them from other inmates. Many of these inmates in Cox's Bazar District Jail were arrested by the three police men.

They had gotten out of their cells on the second day of their imprisonment, but the other inmates raised a ruckus and were bullying them, said the jail sources. "After this, the three chose to stay in their rooms and they are served food inside their rooms," he said.

The jail authorities also said that in addition to "better living conditions", the policemen were "buying" themselves better meals, and were not eating anything served generally to inmates. "They ate the regular jail food for the first week, but since Pradeep received his commissary provision three days ago, they are buying better food," said the source.

Pradeep and Liaqat ate a hearty breakfast of lentils, vegetables and roti, while Nandadul chose roti and halwa. For lunch, they each bought a serving of fish, and for dinner they ate meat, added the sources.

The three landed in the jail on August 6.

Centralised tests now uncertain

FROM PAGE 1

"Since this year's HSC examinations are yet to be held, we will get some time," Shahidullah said adding that if they can utilise this extra time, it could be possible to hold the centralised tests.

This year's Higher Secondary Certificate and its equivalent exams that were scheduled to begin on April 1 have already been delayed by more than four months due to the shutdown of educational institutions.

Usually, admission tests at public universities are held a month after the publication of HSC results.

Till last year, 32 of the 39 public universities held separate admission tests, and the remaining seven agricultural universities held a uniform admission test.

When it comes to higher education, public universities remain students' top choice. But the number of seats is way lower than that of students seeking admission.

About a million students pass the HSC and its equivalent examinations every year, and the public universities enrol around 65,000.

The students' hassle begin after their HSC exams. Many of them turn

to coaching centres to prepare for admission tests. They buy admission forms for different units of multiple universities and spend a lot of time and money on travel and accommodation.

They often travel with parents or guardians, and sometimes have to check into hotels for overnight stay. There are cases when a candidate has to take separate tests for seats in separate faculties, even separate departments, in one university.

The UGC has long been suggesting modifying the existing admission process, saying it is too expensive and coaching-oriented.

In several annual reports, the commission said the public universities would have to take initiatives to introduce a uniform admission system to reduce students' hassles and cut their expenses.

In 2010, the education ministry suggested introducing a uniform admission test, dubbed "cluster system", for the public universities.

President Abdul Hamid, also the chancellor of all universities in the country, on several occasions asked the VCs of all public universities to introduce a uniform admission system to reduce the hassles of students and

their parents.

Against this backdrop, the UGC on January 23 this year said it would go for the new admission test system this year.

According to the new system, there will be four separate clusters for the public universities -- one for the agricultural universities, which is already in place; one for the science and technology universities, one for the engineering universities, and one for the general universities.

"Several committees have been working on the procedures and modalities of the admission tests for these clusters," UGC Member Muhammed Alamgir told this newspaper.

Five universities -- Dhaka University, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), Rajshahi University, Jahangirnagar University and Chittagong University -- have reservations about the new system, he mentioned.

"We will go ahead with our plan and hope these universities will join the system. I believe that all are showing positive attitude towards the new admission system," he added.

biodegradable shrouds for dead bodies, he added.

Plastic waste on the rise during Covid-19 outbreak

Around 14,500 tonnes of hazardous plastic waste had been produced from the single-use surgical face masks, gloves, hand sanitiser bottles, and polythene bags in the first month of the shutdown, according to a recent study by the Environment and Social Development Organisation (ESDO).

About 11.2 percent of this waste constitutes surgical face masks, 21 percent polythene-made regular gloves, 20 percent surgical gloves, 40.9 percent single-use polythene shopping bags, and 6.4 percent empty bottles of hand sanitiser.

The study, titled "Covid-19 Pandemic Pushes Single Use Plastic Waste Outbreak: No Management, No Protection: Pose High Health and Environmental Risk", surveyed more than 570 individuals online and over telephone between March 26 and April 25.

Editor Inquilab sued

COURT CORRESPONDENT

AMM Bahauddin, editor of the daily Inquilab, and one other were sued in a defamation case yesterday.

Former shipping minister Shajahan Khan, also a presidium member of the ruling Awami League, filed the case with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Abu Sayeed.

Abdul Quader, director of Quaderia Publications and Products Limited, was the other accused in the case.

Following a hearing, the magistrate took cognisance of the case, recorded the complainant's statement and instructed the Police Bureau of Investigation to investigate the case and submit a report by September 16.

In his complaint, Shajahan Khan stated that editor AMM Bahauddin on July 28 published a report in his paper "the daily Inquilab" regarding his daughter Oaishe Khan's Covid-19 report which defamed him, his daughter as well as his family.

AL leaders trying to undermine Zia

Allege the BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League leaders are trying to undermine BNP founder Ziaur Rahman's contributions to the independence of Bangladesh, alleged the BNP yesterday.

Mirza Fakhru'l Islam Alamgir, secretary general of the BNP, said Ziaur Rahman announced the independence of the country and participated in the Liberation War but the ruling party leaders were trying to undermine his contributions nowadays.

"They [Awami League leaders] established Baksal in 1975 and the same way they politicised the whole state today," he said.

Addressing a virtual discussion, the BNP leader said the nation was passing a hard time as spirit of democracy was destroyed in the country.

"The ruling party has established fascism in the country destroying the spirit of the Liberation War," he added.

He also said that people of all walks of life would have to play a role to over this situation and restore democracy.

Fakhru'l remembered the role of Arafat Rahman Koko, younger son of Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia who died few years ago, in sports sector during the discussion.

"Koko was not involved in politics but dedicated his life to sports. The base of today's success in cricket was established by Koko," he added.

The BNP leader also proposed formation of Arafat Rahman Koko Foundation to promote sports.

The virtual discussion was organised to mark 51st birth anniversary of Koko.

RAJBARI KILLING

Victim's family files case

No policemen sued, account of case statement contradicts previous claims

OUR CORRESPONDENT, FARIDPUR

Family of deceased Rabiul Biswas, who was allegedly put to death by being drowned in Rajbari's Kalukhali upazila early Saturday, yesterday filed a case over the murder against some 10 people, but surprisingly without accusing any policemen.

Earlier, the family told different media that several police officials, including SI Fazul Haque, picked Rabiul up from his house and handed him over to some alleged drug peddlers before the killing.

Rabiul's wife Sabana Akter filed the case with Kalukhali Police Station accusing five named and some four to five unnamed people.

The named accused are Islam Kha, 65, Rafiq Mondol, 40, Md Moslem, 31, Elias Mondol, 28, and Rakib Hossain Mondol, 21, said Kamrul Hasan, officer in-charge of Kalukhali Police Station, adding that they were trying to arrest the accused.

The victim Rabiul Biswas, 32, was the son of Ashiruddin Biswas from Betharia village in Kalukhali.

According to the case statement, Elias, Rafiq and Rakib had a feud over land with Rabiul.

They stormed Rabiul's house to assault him and his brother Akter Biswas around 12:20am on Saturday.

As the two brothers tried to escape the scene, the attackers chased them and were able to catch Rabiul around 2:00am.

Later, they drowned him in Munaier Beel, the statement reads.

This correspondent tried several times to have the family's comments on the fact that why they have changed their earlier version of the incident in the case statement, but failed as two of their available contact numbers were found switched off.

Meanwhile, the superintendent of police in Rajbari yesterday formed a three-member committee to investigate the incident.

AUGUST 21 GRENADE ATTACK

Paper book of cases ready

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities concerned have prepared the paper books of the sensational August 21 grenade attack cases, clearing the way for the High Court to start hearing on the death references and appeals of the cases.

A paper book that contains all details of a case, trial proceedings, statements, evidence, orders, verdict and other relevant documents is necessary for the HC to hear and dispose of a death reference or an appeal.

If a lower court sentences any person to death in a case, its judgment is examined by the HC through hearing arguments for confirmation of the death sentence.

The case documents and judgment reach as death reference to the HC from the lower court in seven days after the latter delivers the verdict. The paper books of the August 21 grenade attack cases have reached the Supreme Court from the Bangladesh Government Press yesterday, SC spokesperson Md Saifur Rahman informed The Daily Star.

He, however, did not give the details about the issue.

Contacted, Law Minister Anisul Huq told this newspaper that the government has taken necessary steps for quickly preparing the paper books of the August 21 grenade attack cases for early hearing and disposing of their death references and appeals.

“Now I will talk to the attorney general and request him to place an application before the High Court for hearing and disposing of the death references and appeals as soon as possible,” the law minister added.

The death references on the cases reached the HC on November 27, 2018 for examination of the trial court’s verdict.

The HC on January 13 last year accepted the appeals filed by the convicted accused. The same day, the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman also stayed the part of the trial

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A vegetable seller in front of Mirpur Muktiyoddha Market carefully organises a bucket full of Bombay chilli. After all, these are expensive goods. As flooding has disrupted supply chains and inundated chilli fields across the country, this popular ingredient now costs Tk 75-90 per dozen.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

‘Help us bring back killers of Bangabandhu’

Foreign minister urges diplomats

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen yesterday sought cooperation from foreign diplomats in bringing back fugitive killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

He was addressing a virtual discussion with foreign diplomats stationed in Dhaka and New Delhi marking National Mourning Day to commemorate the 45th anniversary of martyrdom of Father of the Nation.

Law Minister Anisul Huq and State Minister for Foreign Affairs M Shahrir Alam also spoke at the discussion while Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen delivered the welcome remarks.

Around 83 diplomats stationed in Dhaka and New Delhi joined the discussion hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The foreign minister said five killers of Bangabandhu remain fugitive and the government came to know the whereabouts of two of them.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

POSTING PHOTOS OF SHIPRA ON FB

Petition filed against two police officers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging two police officers’ actions of posting personal photographs of Shipra Debnath along with provocative comments on Facebook.

Barrister Manoj Kumar Bhowmik submitted the petition as a public interest litigation, seeking its order on the authorities concerned of the government to conduct a probe into this issue and take proper action against the police officers responsible for posting the photographs on Facebook. In the petition, the lawyer said the action of police officers of posting personal photographs of Shipra Debnath along with provocative comments on Facebook is illegal as it has assassinated her character.

Manoj Kumar Bhowmik told The Daily Star that the High Court may hold hearing on his writ petition on tomorrow (Tuesday). He submitted the writ petition based on a report published on The Daily Star yesterday under the headline “Cyber-bullying now adds to her trauma.”

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

New drug circulating in port city: Rab

Phenethylamine worth Tk 12cr seized, one held

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

Members of law enforcement agencies in Chattogram have expressed concern over the recent smuggling of a new kind of drug, phenethylamine, a powder like substance similar to cocaine, in the country, after recovery of a consignment.

Though they have no previous record of seizing such drug, they have already started investigation to find out its smuggling routes, its Bangladeshi rackets and consumers.

The name of the drug came to the light after Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-7) on August 11 arrested a man with 777 grammes of phenethylamine from the port city’s Foy’s Lake area.

Arrestee Md Firoj Khan (37), hailing

from Patiya upazila, is a fourth-grade employee of an educational institution in the city.

Assistant Superintendent of Police Mashkur Rahman of Rab-7 told The Daily Star, “We had information that a few drug peddlers gathered in Foy’s Lake area. We arrested Firoj from the spot with a bag while raiding the area.”

The Rab official said another 12-gramme of the substance was seized his residence afterwards.

Lt Col Mashiur Rahman, commanding officer of Rab-7, said, “We thought it was cocaine, but after conducting tests at Rab Headquarters, we confirmed that it was phenethylamine.”

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

4 new dengue cases detected

UNB, Dhaka

Four new dengue cases were recorded in the last 24 hours until yesterday morning, according to health authorities.

Directorate General of Health Services said 20 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at hospitals in Dhaka and outside the capital.

A total of 389 people were diagnosed with dengue since the beginning of this year. Among them, 368 have recovered.

Bangladesh had a massive dengue outbreak last year when 1,01,354 people were hospitalised and 1,01,037 recovered, killing 179, according to official figures.

DU STUDENT RAPE CASE

Charges accepted against lone accused

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday took cognisance of the charges against Md Majnu, the lone accused, in a case filed over the rape of a Dhaka University student in the capital’s Kurmitola area.

After scrutinising the case dockets and other relevant documents, Judge Mosammat Quamrunnahar of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-7 in Dhaka passed the order.

The judge also set August 26 for the hearing on charge framing against the accused in the case and directed the jail authorities to produce Majnu before it on the scheduled date.

On March 16, Detective Branch Inspector Abu Bakar Siddique, also the case’s investigation officer, submitted the charge sheet against Majnu to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate’s Court in Dhaka.

The IO also brought charges of assaulting and snatching mobile phone, wristwatch and money from the victim’s

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

FAKE COVID-19 CERTIFICATES

8 Regent Group staff on fresh remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed eight officials and employees of Regent Group on a two-day fresh remand each in a case filed over issuing fake Covid-19 certificates and illegally charging patients for testing and treatment.

The accused are: project officer Rakibul Islam Sumon (39), human resources officer Amit Banik (39), health technologists Ahsan Habib Hasan (49) and Hatim Ali (25), administrative officer Ahsan Habib (45), employee Abdur Rashid Khan Jewel (28), and driver Abdus Salam (25) and Regent Hospital Uttara Branch MD Mizanur Rahman (55).

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Morshed Al Mamun Bhuiyan passed the order after Rab’s senior ASP Md Nazmul Haque and also the case’s investigation officer, produced them before his court with a five-day fresh remand for the first seven accused and seven days for the last one.

The defence, however, submitted separate petitions seeking bail along with cancellation of the remand prayer. Hearing both sides, the magistrate turned their bail petitions down and issued the remand paper.

The court rejected the five-day remand prayer sought for seventeen-year-old Kamrul Islam, a receptionist of the group, and sent him to Tongi Correctional Centre. On July 7, Inspector Zulhas Mia of Rab-1 filed the case with Uttara West Police Station against Regent Group Chairman Md Shahed, its MD Masud Parvez and 15. The same day, Rab arrested the eight accused at Regent Hospital’s Uttara branch.

Two 5-year olds raped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Two children were raped by their neighbour in Gopalpur of Rajshahi’s Charghat on Saturday.

Accused Prantik (20), who works as an assistant to masons, went into hiding since the incident, said Somit Kumar Kundu, OC of Charghat Police station.

The two cousins, aged around five, were admitted to one-stop crisis centre of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital for treatment and medical tests, the OC said.

The two children went into Prantik’s house to watch cartoon on TV. He took them to an empty room and raped them.

As the children started shouting, Prantik fled.

Their parents and locals rescued and rushed them to a local health complex.

Father of one of the children filed a case with Charghat Police Station accusing Prantik.

Covid-19 situation worsens in Rajshahi

Six die, 193 infected in 24hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Six people died and 193 were infected with covid-19 in eight districts of Rajshahi division within 24 hours till 8am yesterday, according to a report of the divisional health office. All six deceased were from Bogura district, it said.

The 193 infected people were from Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Naogaon, Bogura, and Joypurhat, while Pabna had the highest number of infections so far in a day.

No death or infections were reported from Natore and Sirajganj districts, the report said.

In yesterday’s report, the division’s death toll rose to 214 while infections increased to 15,547 in eight districts. The highest numbers of 131 deaths and 5,742 infections were registered in Bogura while second largest numbers of 32 dead and 4,017 infected were in Rajshahi district.

At least 15 deaths were registered in Naogaon where there are 1,052 people suffering from Covid-19. In Sirajganj, 11 people died and 1,727 people were infected. In Chapainawabganj, 10 people died and 588 people infected. At least 9 deaths were registered in Pabna where the number of infected persons is 897. In Joypurhat, four people died and 857 people were infected, while two died and 667 were infected in Natore districts.

Of the infected, 10,213 recovered, while 1,590 people were being treated at hospitals and 4,057 were in isolation.

Some 54,312 people were quarantined in the division. Of them, 51,680 were released from quarantine, the report said.



These two men are among a small group seen around Dhaka Medical College Hospital engaged in the opportune business of selling plastic sheets. For rickshaw-pullers and commuters alike caught off-guard by sudden rain, they offer simple yet effective protection from water for Tk 25-30. The photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

13 train routes reopen

UNB, Dhaka

Thirteen pairs of passenger trains resumed operation from yesterday on different routes to make services more functional amid the pandemic, said Railways Minister Md Nurul Islam Sujon.

“We’ve asked authorities to ensure train movement, maintaining health guidelines and social distancing,” he said after visiting Kamalapur Railway Station.

According to rail sources, 17 pairs of passenger trains were running on various routes until now.

The trains are Parabat Express on Dhaka-Sylhet route; Hawra Express on Dhaka-Mohanganj-Dhaka; Agnibina Express on Dhaka-Tarakandi-Dhaka; Padma Express

on Dhaka-Rajshahi; Titumir Express on Rajshahi-Chilahati-Rajshahi; Mahanagar Express on Dhaka-Chattogram-Dhaka; Ekata Express on Panchagarh-Dhaka-Panchagarh; Sundarban Express on Khulna-Dhaka-Khulna; Bijoy Express on Chattogram-Mymensingh-Chattogram; Upukul Express on Dhaka-Noakhali-Dhaka; Shimanta Express on Khulna-Chilahati-Khulna; and Tongipara Express on Gobra-Rajshahi-Gobra.

Commuter trains will be operated on Dhaka-Dewanganj-Dhaka route.

Train services resumed on May 31 with eight pairs of intercity trains. Bangladesh Railway started selling tickets online from May 30 to avoid health risks.



Bangladesh Energy and Power Research Council (BEPRC)
Power Division
Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources
Bidyut Bhavan, 1 no. Abdul Gani Road, Ramna, Dhaka.
www.eprc.gov.bd

SPECIAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS ON ENERGY AND POWER RELATED APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECTS

To bring technological innovation in energy and power sectors as well as to ensure energy security through research and development, BEPRC is looking forward to funding applied research projects. The idea is to seek innovative solutions for efficient, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable development of Bangladesh's energy and power infrastructure.

The Program Solicitations mainly focus to fund applied research based projects that would unfold technologies, tools, and strategies for upgrading, repowering, and revolutionizing the overall energy and power sector of Bangladesh.

Research Focus Areas

Proposers submitting applied research proposals should address one of the following key research areas.

1. Responsible Energy Conservation
2. Energy Efficiency and Demand Management
3. Renewable Energy
4. Conventional Energy
5. Transmission and Distribution Integration and Infrastructure
6. Energy, Environment and Socio-economic Impact Analysis
7. Energy storage.

For Details of each of the above mentioned research areas, please refer to program solicitations at the link: <http://researchgrant.eprc.gov.bd/>

Who May Submit a Solicited Proposal?

Individuals and organizations in the following categories may submit proposals:

1. Universities and Colleges
2. Non-profit, non-academic organizations
3. For-profit organizations
4. Government Organizations
5. Individuals
6. Foreign organizations

For details, please refer to the BEPRC grants proposal submission guideline at: <http://www.eprc.gov.bd/site/view/notices>

How to Submit Proposals?

Proposals to BEPRC shall be submitted via online portal of BEPRC. For proposal submission via online, the guideline specified in the BEPRC Grants Proposal Submission Guideline applies. Proposal submission link: <http://researchgrant.eprc.gov.bd/>

No hard Copy Submission is allowed. Only proposals submitted online will be considered.

BEPRC will ensure maintenance of strict confidentiality of the proposals.

Details of Program Solicitations including Award Information, Key Activities Schedules and Eligibility information are available at: <http://researchgrant.eprc.gov.bd/>

For any queries, Please contact:
Farhan Hussain, Executive Engineer, BEPRC, Dhaka.
email: farhanseng@gmail.com

Solicitation Release Date
04.08.2020

Last Date of Proposal Submission
06.09.2020

GD-1288

THAILAND PRO-DEMOCRACY PROTEST

Thousands gather as tensions rise

REUTERS, Bangkok

Thousands of Thai protesters chanting “down with dictatorship” and “the country belongs to the people” joined an anti-government demonstration in Bangkok yesterday that was one of the biggest since a 2014 coup.

Students have organised protests almost daily for the past month, but the latest drew wider support for the demands for the departure of former junta leader Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha’s government, a new constitution and an end to harrasing opposition activists.

Some students have also called for reform of the monarchy - once a taboo subject.

“We want a new election and a new parliament from the people,” student activist Patsalawalee Tanakitwiboonpon, 24, told the cheering crowd at Bangkok’s Democracy Monument. “Lastly, our dream is to have a monarchy which is truly under the constitution.”

Prayuth won elections last year that the opposition says were held under rules to ensure that he kept power. The most vocal opposition party was subsequently banned.

Anger has further been fuelled by accusations of corruption, the arrest of some student leaders over earlier protests and the economic fallout from the coronavirus epidemic.

Students have presented 10 reforms they seek to the monarchy of King Maha Vajiralongkorn - including curbing his powers over the constitution, the royal fortune and the armed forces.

Thailand’s lese majeste law sets a penalty of up to 15 years for criticising the monarchy, but Prayuth has said the king requested that it not be used for now.



A pro-democracy protester holding a placard does a three-fingered salute at a rally to demand the government to resign, to dissolve the parliament and to hold new elections under a revised constitution, near the Democracy Monument in Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pranab ‘responding to treatment’

Former Indian President Pranab Mukherjee’s son Abhijit Mukherjee yesterday tweeted that his father is doing “much better and stable than the preceding days” and he is responding well to treatment at a hospital in New Delhi. “All his vital parameters are stable & he is responding to treatment! We firmly believe that he will be back among us soon,” Abhijit said in the Twitter post. The Army Research and Referral Hospital, where the 84-year-old former president is admitted and underwent a brain surgery for a removal of a clot, said yesterday that Mukherjee’s medical condition remained unchanged. In a statement, the hospital said Mukherjee remained on ventilatory support. Pranab Mukherjee had to undergo the “life-saving” brain surgery last week after he suffered a fall at his Rajaji Marg residence last Sunday. He also tested Covid-19 positive.

Australian surfer punches shark to save wife

An Australian man has been hailed a “hero” after repeatedly punching a shark until it released his wife’s leg. Police said the couple were surfing at a beach near Port Macquarie, four hours north of Sydney, on Saturday morning when she was bitten twice and injured on her right leg. “Her companion was forced to punch the fish until it let go,” police said in the statement. Paramedics treated the 35-year-old at the beach before she was later airlifted to a major hospital for surgery. One witness who was surfing nearby when the attack occurred called the man a “hero” for taking on what appeared to be a great white shark up to three metres (10 feet) long. The woman’s husband, Mark Rapley, played down his efforts, telling the newspaper he “did what anyone would have done in that moment”.

Trump’s younger brother dies



Donald Trump’s younger brother Robert, 71, died on Saturday after being hospitalized for an undisclosed illness, the US president said in a statement mourning his loss. “It is with heavy heart I share that my wonderful brother, Robert, peacefully passed away tonight,” Trump said in a White House statement. “He was not just my brother, he was my best friend. He will be greatly missed, but we will meet again. His memory will live on in my heart forever. Robert, I love you. Rest in peace.” The 74-year-old president had visited his brother on Friday at a hospital in New York, staying for about 45 minutes. Born in 1948 and the youngest of the five Trump siblings, Robert worked on Wall Street before joining the family real estate business. Quieter and less famous than Donald, Robert was fiercely loyal to his older brother.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS, ANN

No new polls in Belarus

Says Lukashenko as Russia says it is ready to help militarily if necessary; thousands march for new vote

AFP, Minsk

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko rejected calls to step down in a defiant speech to supporters yesterday as tens of thousands of opponents rallied for the biggest demonstration yet against his disputed re-election.

The strongman who has ruled the ex-Soviet country for the last 26 years is facing an unprecedented challenge to his leadership from a growing protest movement fanned by a brutal police crackdown.

In a rare campaign-style rally in front of flag-waving supporters in central Minsk, Lukashenko said: “I called you here not to defend me... but for the first time in a quarter-century, to defend your country and its independence.”

“The elections were valid. We will not hand over the country,” he said.

As he spoke, tens of thousands of people walked down Independence Avenue for a “March for Freedom” called by the opposition to keep up pressure after a week of demonstrations. Columns of protesters raised victory signs and held flowers and



balloons. Many wore white, the colour that has come to symbolise the opposition movement.

A violent post-polls police crackdown on protesters saw more 6,700 people arrested, hundreds wounded and two people dead.

With pressure growing from the street and abroad, Lukashenko has reached out to Russia and Moscow said yesterday it was ready to provide military help if needed.

European governments have condemned the election and police crackdown, and EU ministers on Friday agreed to draw up a list of targets in Belarus for a new round of sanctions.

New Israeli air strikes pound Gaza

AFP, Gaza City

Israel’s army launched new air strikes yesterday against Hamas positions in Gaza and closed the fishing zone around the Palestinian enclave in response to rockets and firebombs sent into Israeli territory.

Long simmering Palestinian anger has flared further since Israel and the UAE on Thursday agreed to normalise relations, a move Palestinians saw as a betrayal.

Over the past week Israeli forces have carried out repeated night-time strikes on targets linked to Hamas in response to makeshift firebombs attached to balloons and kites which have been sent into southern Israel, causing thousands of fires on Israeli farms and communities.

US can’t trigger ‘snapback’ sanctions on Iran: EU

AGENCIES

The United States is not entitled to force the reinstatement of sanctions on Iran via the so-called “snapback” mechanism linked to an international nuclear deal, the European Union’s foreign policy chief said.

Since the US unilaterally withdrew from the agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), it cannot be considered a part of it, the official added yesterday.

“Given that the US unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA in May 2018 and has not participated in any JCPOA structures or activities subsequently, the US cannot be considered as a JCPOA participant,” a spokesperson for EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said, according to dpa news agency.

“We therefore consider that the US is not in a position to resort to mechanisms reserved for JCPOA participants [such as the so-called snapback].”

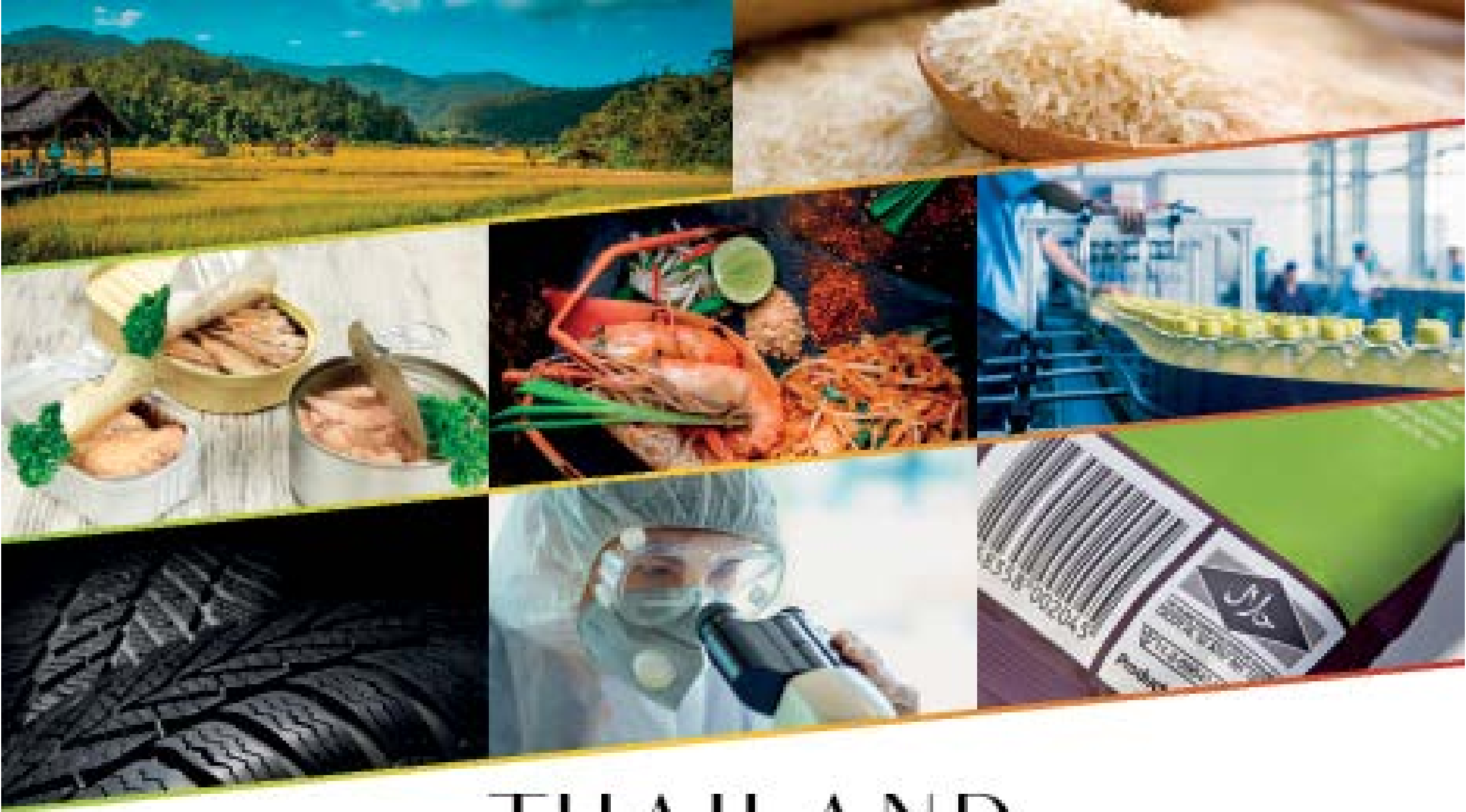
The nuclear agreement is intended to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons while granting it an internationally monitored civilian nuclear power programme. In the course of the agreement adopted by the United Nations, the dismantling of sanctions against Iran was also regulated.

An arms embargo that is part of the deal is due to expire in October. The US wants an extension of the embargo, but it failed to push this through in the UN Security Council earlier this week.

Now, President Donald Trump wants to force the reinstatement of all international sanctions on Iran against the will of the other members of the UNSC via the “snapback”.

“We’ll be doing a snapback,” Trump told reporters on Saturday at a press conference in New Jersey. “You’ll be watching it next week.”

The snapback was granted to the participants in the nuclear agreement in the event of a violation of the terms by Iran.



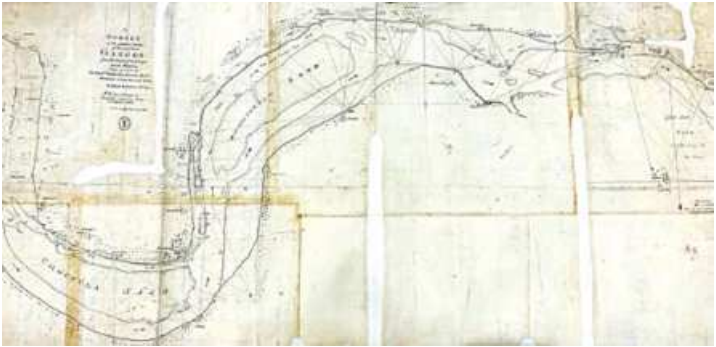
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Thailand’s long-standing reputation as “the kitchen of the world” is deeply rooted in its quality foods, agricultural products as well as halal products. With the utmost care and attention, Thailand has further established itself as a world-leading provider of medical and health & wellness services.





Survey map of the southern bank of the Ganges by James Rennell drawn in 1764-65. COURTESY: BRITISH LIBRARY, PHOTO: LABIB HOSSAIN



One of the earlier applications of trigonometric survey used in drawing the survey map of the Ganges by James Rennell, drawn in 1764-65. COURTESY: BRITISH LIBRARY, PHOTO: LABIB HOSSAIN



Shibchor S.E.S.D.P. Model High School, Madaripur (The Daily Star, July 23, 2020)

Arcadia Floating School, Alipur, Keraniganj by Saif Ul Haque Sthapati which won the Aga Khan Award 2017-19. In contrast with the image of Shibchor Model High School, here the design was conceived considering the flood and seasonal variation. PHOTO: SABBER AHMED

Decolonising the cities to address flood, rain and water

LABIB HOSSAIN

The city is conceptualised in many different ways – as a body, a machine, an organism, a second nature and now a third or even fourth nature. These readings of the city, however, have been based on the idea of the city as dry ground separated from water, an unstable element that needs to be managed or controlled. Indeed, the city's relationship with water is defined by how the latter is contained as an entity, whether as a 'river', 'sea' or in pipes and drains. The present condition of the cities in the Bengal Delta, a monsoon-fed landscape, exemplifies this simplistic articulation of 'land' and 'water'. For over 200 years, since the British colonial period (1757-1947), urban development involved confining the delta's constantly shifting waterways to create 'dry' land through the lines of rivers, canals, embankments, colonial structures, railways, etc., and it has been continued with the same mentality in the present.

The discourse of 'contained water' and 'dry ground' in Dacca (now Dhaka) was brought about through a series of colonial practices and interventions. In the early colonial period, the dynamic landscape of the delta – its shifting rivers, disappearance of lands, and accretion of new lands – was perceived as a hindrance in the functioning of territorialisation, governance and taxation. Through mapping the colonised territory, enacting different laws and regulations and implementing infrastructural projects, the colonial government constructed bodies of knowledge about the deltaic landscape that allowed it to exert its power and promote profit-extracting activities. At the same time, influential natives (merchants, zamindars, etc.) were also engaged in those projects, using them to serve their own interests. Historian Debjani Bhattacharya argues the interventions ultimately led to the 'soaking ecology' that is long inherent to the delta being forgotten. These interventions also contributed to a pervasive separation of land and water, making these categories of landscape seem so self-evident as to escape our ability to even question their very existence. These geo-cultural transformations created a complex tradition of seeing and representing the city and the landscape that came to be shared by both coloniser and colonised.

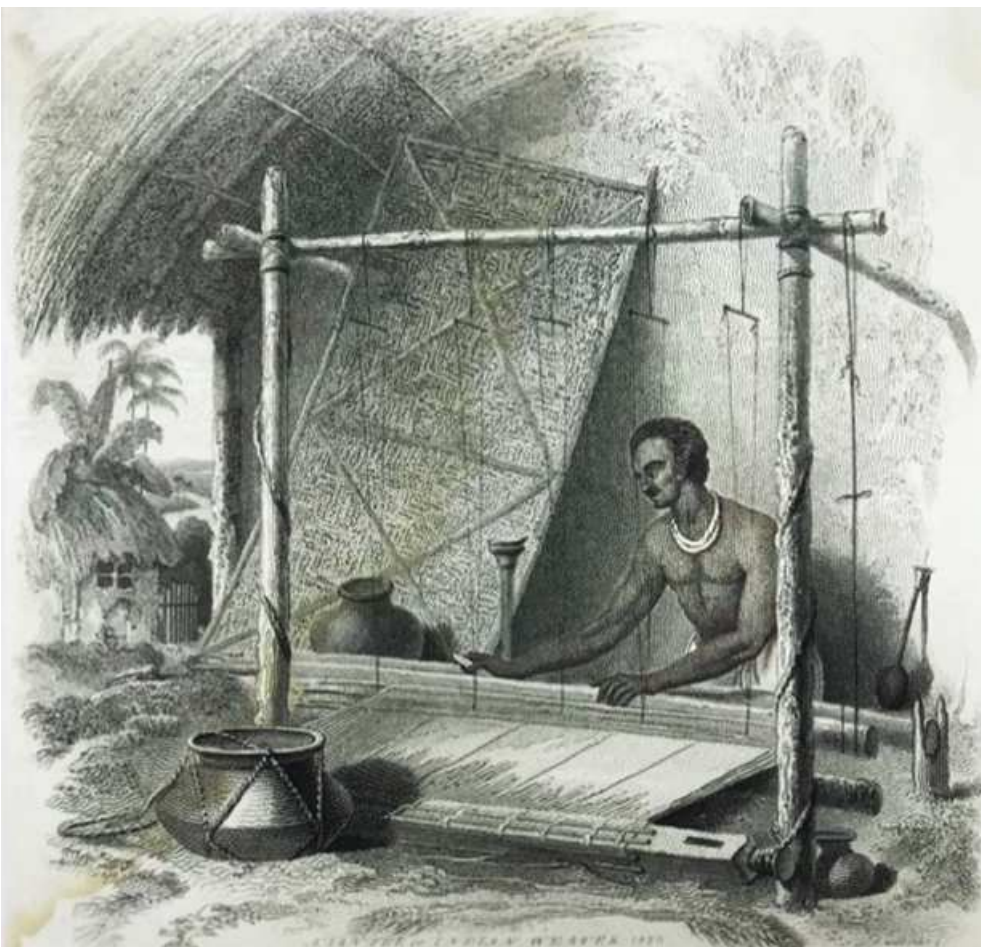
One of the major aims of the postcolonial discourse is to identify the continuing threads of exploitation from colonial to postcolonial period. Now the questions to ask are, how was the colonial land-water separation a mode of exploitation and how has this been continued in postcolonial Bangladesh? These questions are important as they are deeply connected with the way we perceive our cities, treat our waterbodies and address floods. Think of our spinners and muslin weavers who were dependent on the watery landscape to weave

the finest quality of muslin fabric. The extreme delicacy and thinness of muslin fabric, for which it once gained its worldwide popularity, was dependent on the presence of moisture in the atmosphere. This moisture is another form of water which is not visible in the way we imagine water today. And this damp, moist atmosphere was a result of the presence of forests, waterbodies and monsoon climate.

However, the clearing of forests and marshes which started even before the British arrived in Bengal in fact accelerated in an unprecedented manner under the East India Company for whom the revenue from the land was of utmost priority. The enactment of laws like Permanent Settlement Act of 1793, Bengal Alluvium or Diluvion Act (BADA) of 1825 among many others was crucial to formalise the division of land and water, and to maximise the area of cleared land for cultivation and earning revenue. As the forests were cleared and water and land got demarcated and formalised, the required moisture for muslin weaving was lost. Many weavers had to convert to agriculture and other professions at which they were not adept. As a result, many of these weavers died due to the famines during the late 18th to the early 19th century in Bengal.

In a more recent work, landscape architect Dilip da Cunha argues that the line with which maps are drawn, and land and water are separated, is a colonising device that subjugated indigenous people and created an 'underclass'. In that sense, defining this 'dry' form of land and 'contained' water in the colonial period was a mode of exploitation because of which these indigenous people suffered profound dissonance as their experience was grounded in the water cycle in one moment, but they were made to inhabit another. Historian van Schendel refers to the presence of water-based artisan economy in Bengal existing before the colonial period. Through the profit-generating activities of the colonial administration, rice cultivation was made the universal occupation for the 'underclass' supplanting many diverse indigenous artisan practices. The colonial interventions on the landscape not only impeded muslin weaving and other artisan industries, but also cleared the path for further exploitation and discrimination.

What is the current status of this particular form of 'land' and 'water' and how has this dividing process been continued in postcolonial Bangladesh? The idea of the Permanent Settlement Act of 1793 ensured that any embankments built by local zamindars will be incentivised as these structures unambiguously represent the line that clearly demarcates the division between land and water. Similar trends can be traced in the huge national interest in building dams and embankments which are often incentivised



Muslin weaver of Dacca.

COURTESY: BRITISH LIBRARY

by international and world organisations. Prior to every election, it is a common rhetoric to promise more embankments in the name of development – controlling rivers and addressing floods. In his seminal work, postcolonial thinker Frantz Fanon pointed out how the colonial discourse generated desire among the others (colonised) to be like the Europeans or Westerners. This is one major continuing thread in the transition from colonial entities to postcolonial nation-states. The political rhetoric of building embankments makes us believe that embankments are a symbol of modernity, and that we will be more civilised if we have more controlling measures. We want our Buriganga riverfronts to look like Thames! This is the desire that overpowers the critical questions such as "What does climate require?" and "What should be the nature of cities in this monsoon-fed landscape?"

Each year we manage to build a number of dams and embankments. However, the cities received most importance not only because they accommodate the majority of the population, but also because of their centrality in this commerce-driven society. In

the process, the non-urban settlements and their inhabitants were marginalised. The more embankments built in one location, the higher the impact elsewhere. A widely shared piece of news recently was the drowning of the three-storied Shibchor Model High School as Padma shifted about few miles overnight. This is an appropriate example. On the other hand, since the cities are compartmentalised they become waterlogged during every monsoon. Yet some of us who are privileged enough to remain high above the ground and can afford to be at home, try to celebrate rain with khichuri and Rabindra Sangeet. But as soon as we step outside, we only curse the rain and our cities. A profound contradiction in our daily urban life!

Surely, in the age of climate change and rise in sea level, embankments cannot be the long-term solution and are not an appropriate measure for a country like Bangladesh, which is still developing and located in the world's largest Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta, a monsoon-fed landscape. Regular occurrences of water-logging within the city and the disappearance of structures and lives in non-urban/semi-urban areas point out the problems of such

hard-engineered thinking. Moreover, it is such hydrological infrastructures that give rise to inequalities.

If embankments are not the solution, then what is? There is no straight-cut answer or mathematical formula if we acknowledge the context with its complexities. However, the process to address this problem involves decolonising our city-thinking and landscape-thinking. It starts with acknowledging our colonial history and identifying the false desire that it generated and continued to generate in the postcolonial context. It leads us to connect the thread between colonial land-water separation and the way we perceive our cities and landscape now. Certainly, in Dhaka, water, a natural element, has become our enemy and flood, a natural event, has become a curse. But are they as 'natural' as they seem?

Each year during June and July, the monsoon wind brings rain that fills and overflows our water arteries. We call this overflow flood, but our 'modern eye' tends to seek where exactly this overflow occurs. Theoretically, it is at the line where water ends and land starts. Anuradha Mathur and Dilip da Cunha argue that flood is water crossing a line that is drawn by us, humans, and thus, flood is not naively 'natural'. If we can question the line, we can question the existence of 'flood'. Rather, what we call 'flood' is the excess of water in the terrain, which will flow and evaporate in the atmosphere. To let this happen we need to rethink the ground of the cities – which does not confront water, rather welcomes rain and water, soaks the excess and lets it evaporate. We need to find ways to soften the existing hard lines and to restore the forgotten soaking ecology.

It is also necessary to bring in the monsoon experience of local people by envisioning an ecological scale that goes beyond the city-village binary. This is the 'decolonising' call for our cities to address water and flood. At the same time, as many scholars argue, 'decolonisation' is a slow process and cannot or should not be addressed with a quick solution. It requires a fundamental change in our thinking and ways of perception and a whole mode of cultural shift. In other words, it is a transdisciplinary holistic task that needs involvement of other disciplines. Thus, in our future urban-water-planning projects, the government needs to ensure involvement of different sectors, not just politicians, engineers and urban planners, but also historians, anthropologists, architects, writers, critical thinkers as well as community people.

Labib Hossain is a PhD Fellow in History of Architecture and Urban Development at Cornell University and a lecturer (on leave) at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). He can be reached at lh636@cornell.edu.

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA MONDAY AUGUST 17, 2020, BHADRA 2, 1427 BS

Murtaja Baseer’s legacy of creative activism

Farewell to a master painter!

WE are deeply saddened by the passing away of legendary artist, poet, litterateur and Language Movement veteran Murtaja Baseer. He was undergoing treatment at the ICU of a city hospital for severe respiratory problems and reduced oxygen consumption rate, along with other health complications. Doctors also confirmed that he was Covid-19 positive. The artist passed away in the hospital on the morning of August 15, creating an irreparable void in our art and culture arena.

Born in 1932 to Dr Muhammed Shahidullah and Marguba Khatun, Murtaja Baseer would regard himself as “an artist by chance”. In his six-decade-long career, Baseer was continuously experimenting and innovating, looking for new ideas to work with, which set him apart from many of his peers. *Wings of Butterfly*, *The Wall*, and *Epitaph for the Martyrs* are the kinds of work that depict the versatile genius of the maestro.

He became an active member of the student wing (Chhatra Federation) of the Communist Party in 1947, when he was a student of class nine. He zealously took part in the political campaigns of the Communist Party in 1950 and was later sent to jail for five months. Baseer was also at the forefront of the Language Movement in 1952. *Roktakto Ekushhey*, a painting by him on the incident of Ekushhey February is considered the first painting on our Language Movement.

The art maestro believed that his adherence to the communist ideology helped him paint on important social causes. While his series *The Wall* and *Wings of Butterfly*, created in the pre-liberation period, portrayed the socio-political turmoil that engulfed the nation at the time, the series *Epitaph for the Martyrs*, painted during the Liberation War, was dedicated to the martyrs of 1971. As a socially responsible artist, he tried to capture the struggles of the people around him. His friends and peers remember him as an artist uncompromising to his creations as well as a vibrant, charming and generous human being. His students remember him as a nurturing mentor who never imposed any ideas on them but helped them find their own concepts instead.

Murtaja Baseer occupies a unique place in the history of modern art of Bangladesh. He touched upon every significant chapter of the glorious history of our country through various art forms, including paintings, films and poetry. His creations will forever remain a source of inspiration for the present and aspiring artists of the future generations. May his soul rest in peace.

Compensate laid off temporary jute mill workers

Grave injustice done by tinkering with the law

SHUTTING down all 25 of the jute mills in the country in July, quite abruptly, was like cutting off the head to cure the headache. These were closed, we were told, because the BJMC had run up huge losses, which the state could no longer bear. While the wisdom of the decision is open to question, it can be said without fear of refutation that the closure has created another kind of problem for the state—the plight of the axed temporary workers. While the government, we are informed, has set aside Tk 500 crore for the permanent laid off workers, the temporary workers have been left high and dry, without a farthing to take home. Can the government afford to ignore them?

We ought to stress here that the word “temporary” used to refer to replacement workers is misplaced here. Even more unacceptable is the fact that the managements of these mills have cheated the so-called temporary workers by tinkering with the provisions that govern the rules of employment and pay and emoluments of temporary workers. Some of these “temporary” workers have been working for more than a decade, and whereas, a permanent worker, working for that long will have a hefty sum in his or her pocket after being laid-off, the poor temporary workers will find themselves, more than 8,000 of them, on the streets, literally panhandling.

It is a gross injustice when poor, and in most cases illiterate, people are cheated of their dues for the labour they have given all these years because the management has applied the rules in the most deceitful, unethical and immoral way. The temporary workers were terminated only a few days before the expiry of the three or six months’ probation period, as applicable, and re-employed, to avoid making them permanent.

We would call upon the government not to turn a blind eye to the plight of these temporary workers. If rules can be distorted for an insincere purpose, it can be adapted for honest and humane causes too. Give the temporary jute mill workers their dues.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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May peace prevail

Ever since the coronavirus pandemic struck the world, it has changed the course of our lives. Suddenly the world has become an unrecognisable place. Death and infection have become our daily reality. But even now, natural calamities, horrible accidents, political unrest, and heinous crimes are taking place just like before all across the world. At times I am frightened and overwhelmed by the thought of where the world is headed and what awaits us in the future.

I do not know when the Covid-19 situation will improve and humanity will be able to breathe a sigh of relief. Until that happens, I think all that we can do is behave responsibly and help those in need. We should all pray to the Almighty that He showers us with blessings and helps us get back to our normal lives that we all miss so dearly.

Nur Jahan, Chattogram

Bangladesh’s GDP growth number does not hold water



MACRO MIRROR

ALMOST a year ago, in this column, I wrote about the obsession of our policymakers’ with the growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (“Our incomprehensible obsession with GDP”, May 19, 2019). I discussed in brief how GDP is estimated, and its inherent weaknesses which is why this indicator should not be taken so seriously.

Highly acclaimed economists have discarded this measure long ago as an indicator of economic prosperity. Among others, Nobel Laureate and Columbia University Professor Joseph Stiglitz has written time and again that the traditional way of measuring GDP is inaccurate and outdated. In the report “Mis-measuring Our Lives: Why GDP Doesn’t Add Up”, Stiglitz along with Nobel Laureate Professor Amartya Sen and Professor Jean-Paul Fitoussi talked about people becoming worse off even with higher average GDP.

Unfortunately, the fascination about GDP growth among our policymakers has led to yet another questionable number for the fiscal year 2019-20 (FY2020). Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) has recently published the provisional data of the economy for FY2020. This shows the progress of various sectors and the GDP for the past fiscal year. The provisional GDP growth for FY2020 is estimated to be 5.24 percent. During a time when the whole world is facing the ravage of the ongoing Covid-19 and economies around the world have collapsed irrespective of their size and phases of development, Bangladesh’s growth number is not only astonishing but also misleading.

Growth during first three quarters

In his budget speech for FY2021 the finance minister announced that the GDP growth would be 5.2 percent in FY2020. This was a reduction from the originally projected 8.2 percent in view of the outbreak of coronavirus in the country. It was also projected that all major indicators would observe significant decline in FY2020 because of the negative impact of the corona pandemic.

Two months later, on August 10 2020, BBS came up with a set of national estimates. Newspaper reports indicate that these were based on data from July 2019 to March 2020. However, those have changed in BBS estimates now and some of those are even better than the previous FY2019. One of the key parameters of growth is investment as a share of GDP. In the budget speech of FY2021 in June this year, the growth of gross investment was revised downward to 20.8 percent from the originally projected 32.8 percent and

private investment was revised to 12.7 percent from the originally projected 24.2 percent. BBS data indicate that investment as a share of GDP has increased from 31.57 percent in FY2019 to 31.75 percent in FY2020. Private investment as a share of GDP has also risen from 23.54 percent in FY2019 to 23.63 percent in FY2020. Indicators related to private investment do not support this number. For example, till April 2020, private sector credit growth was only 8.8 percent. Import growth was negative (-) 8.8 percent and import of capital machineries went down to (-) 33.5 percent in April 2020. So where has this increased investment come from?

One may recall, even before the outbreak of coronavirus in Bangladesh most economic indicators were not doing well. There was large shortfall in revenue mobilisation, the pace of public investment projects was slow, bank borrowing by the government was high to meet up with budget deficit, financial

increased to some extent, total export declined by (-) 51.2 percent during April to June of FY2020. Import of capital machinery has declined drastically to (-) 33.8 percent as of June 2020.

The corona impact was not reflected also in the case of investment. While private investment has seen insignificant growth and has been hovering around 23 percent of GDP during the last few years, the increase of private investment during a pandemic period is somewhat puzzling. Entrepreneurs and bank officials have expressed concern about the decline in business and investments. As of June 2020, private sector credit growth was only 8.4 percent. Foreign direct investment (FDI) has declined by 42.5 percent in FY2020. Registration of investment projects with Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) has declined by 55 percent during April-June 2020. Domestic resource mobilisation has declined by (-) 34.6 in April 2020.



PHOTO: ARKO DATTA/REUTERS

sector’s performance was not encouraging and both export and import growth was slowing down. This, no doubt would have implications for economic growth.

Impact of coronavirus pandemic ignored

Since the outbreak of coronavirus in March 2020, and because of the country-wide shutdown to contain the spread of the virus, the already stressed economic condition in Bangladesh has worsened. As domestic agricultural and industrial productions were interrupted, supply chains disrupted, businesses closed, and employment were lost, impoverishment among people has increased. Moreover, as Bangladesh is not detached from the global economy, it also faced the impact of coronavirus through reduced export, import and FDI. In the budget speech, both export and import were revised downward and projected to be (-) 10 percent in FY2020. Though recently export orders of the readymade garments have

However, the impact of coronavirus on the economy is not reflected in the provisional estimates of GDP. Without considering the performance of the last three months of FY2020, economic indicators and growth numbers are incomplete and doesn’t match reality.

Hence Bangladesh’s growth is way above many countries

The World Bank, in June 2020 had revised Bangladesh’s growth downward to 1.6 percent for FY2020. On the other hand, in June 2020, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected Bangladesh’s GDP growth to be 3.8 percent in 2020. The Centre for Policy Dialogue estimated Bangladesh’s GDP growth to be 2.5 percent in FY2020.

However, the impact of coronavirus on the economy is not reflected in the provisional estimates of GDP. As opposed to this, global economy has been projected to observe (-) 4.9 percent growth in 2020 by the IMF as of June 2020. For all major

economies, IMF’s projection is pessimistic. For example, the USA will see (-) 8 percent growth, Japan will observe (-) 5.8 percent growth, India will have (-) 4.5 percent growth, and China will achieve a positive growth of one percent. The World Bank forecasted India’s growth to be negative (-) 3.2 percent and China’s only one percent in 2020.

Thus, compared to the global and other countries’ growth forecasts, Bangladesh will do much better despite the negative impact of coronavirus. A number of reasons are attributable to this. First, Bangladesh has already had a high growth momentum during the last couple of years. Moreover, before and during the corona crisis, the Bangladesh economy has been supported by its strong domestic economy. Agricultural production has been good though its growth was slightly less in FY2020 compared to FY2019. Remittances saw strong increase in FY2020. The country could also make some savings due to low oil prices in the international market.

But work on improving the quality of life is inadequate

Bangladesh’s national statistics on economic indicators are problematic on three counts. First, many a times, several indicators are inconsistent with each other. Thus, the authenticity of data is questioned. Second, statistics have become politicised and are used as a political tool. As a result, the independence of the offices entrusted with data collection and reporting has been curtailed over time. Third, too much importance on GDP growth by the policymakers has taken their attention away from the real and urgent issue. That is, it is not GDP growth, but the quality of growth which should be focused on. There is no need to waste our valuable time on a faulty estimate which does not capture the inequality and inclusivity of economic growth. Per capita income of Bangladesh has increased from USD 1,909 in FY2019 to USD 2,064 in FY2020. This does not mean anything for anyone—rich or poor. The rich do not care about any change in this number as their income is a thousand times more than this. The poor also do not care as their income is far below and the average per capita income will never change their lives. What matters is how much is distributed among those who are furthest behind.

So, we need reliable data and better measure of economic advancement. Unfortunately, our GDP growth will not be able to show the extent of negative impacts of the historic coronavirus pandemic on a large section of the population. As a result, policies will also not be adequate to address the sufferings of people and recover from the challenges arising from the ongoing crisis.

Dr Fahmida Khatun is the Executive Director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

Trust lost between governments and citizens during Covid-19 pandemic?

RTI/FOI can help to retrieve it

SHAMSUL BARI AND RUHI NAZ

THE relationship between governments and the people has been badly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic in many countries. Except in a few countries, people found it difficult to believe the government’s information. They saw vast discrepancies between the reality and what they were told. Governments did not trust their citizens to “do the right thing”, and imposed measures rather than seeking cooperation. Ultimately, this lack of mutual trust made efforts to contain the virus more difficult.

How did we get here? When the pandemic began earlier in the year, all governments were confronted with an enemy utterly unknown to them. There was no knowledge as to how it will behave and what havoc it may cause. States had to gear up on a war footing. And in doing that, many fumbled.

Governments had to immediately devise ways and find means to contain the deadly enemy. They had to feed the public with information that would console and reassure them. People looked to governments for guidance and leadership. They wanted to know if they would be safe and healthy in their hands.

Some governments succeeded in carrying the people along, but the majority failed. As government measures to curb the menace failed to work, people began to lose faith in the information they received from public authorities. Populations began to ignore government strictures. Irate public authorities imposed strict surveillance measures. This further soured government-people relationship.

The buildup of such distrust under circumstances fostered by the crisis is not inevitable. Government measures to contain the pandemic may be categorised into three overlapping phases of activities—response, recovery and revival.

During the response phase, governments had to move fast, and bypass many established procedures which stood in the

way. Unfortunately, most governments did not care to explain their actions.

As the situation continued like this, peoples’ exasperation increased, and the information/trust gap widened. Governments ordered business to close, introduced lockdowns, controlled people’s movements, curtailed travel, reallocated economic activities to meet urgent medical needs and clamped down on critics and dissenters. They undertook procurement of medical supplies/equipment and engaged in a spending spree unprecedented in the history of most states. An inevitable result of all these frenzied activities was the emergence of cheats who engaged in profiteering. Governments did or could do little to tame public rage and fight corruption.

While tending to the immediate medical and health needs, governments had to start thinking about recovery needs. This required shifting of focus to economic activities and mitigating the broader impacts of the crisis. They had to consider returning public institutions to their normal mode. Businesses, industries, schools, offices, public transportation, restaurants, sports and other institution of public interest had to be reopened, while the virus continued its rampage. Public perceptions about these differed greatly. In many areas, governments had to move rather swiftly, shortcutting traditional controls, with unilateral executive actions. Such actions raised transparency and accountability concerns.

While most governments are still preoccupied with response and recovery, the reconstruction and rehabilitation process—the revival phase—cannot be left unattended for long. Governments are required to consider long-term improvements to public operations—to ensure preparedness to respond effectively to future health risks of such a magnitude. They will have to revisit the supply chains, reassess the preparedness and capacity of medical facilities, re-evaluate old rules and regulations, allow the spread of

technologies that have proven effective during the crisis, such as digitalisation.

The key to recovery of the lost trust will be the ability of governments to take the people along in the difficult tasks that lie ahead.

RTI/FOI Acts can help governments minimise citizen’s concerns about their actions. They can make proactive disclosures, as provided under the law, to inform people about measures taken. Many governments did that, some better than others. But more than that the law also provides for individual rights to obtain information that would go deeper and show whether government functionaries and bodies fulfilled their public responsibilities with diligence, honesty and integrity. Such information is often not susceptible to be proactively disclosed. And since individual use of the law became impossible in most countries because of the pandemic, citizens had no scope to obtain them. If governments are inclined to demonstrate their responsibility of transparency and accountability under the law, there are many ways of doing so. Unfortunately, such a sense of responsibility is lost on most public offices and officials.

Peoples’ need for information during the pandemic, as observed in most countries, has actually not been that great. They were limited primarily to areas where they felt uncertain if government decisions to deal with the crisis were based on scientific knowledge, expertise and guidance, with the interest of the people and the nation foremost in mind. Many were interested in information normally contained in minutes of meetings, such as the first meeting of the Task Force, who participated in them, their names and qualifications, the proportion of scientists among them, including social scientists. Others wanted to know who decided on lockdown measures and how, on basis of what scientific data. How economic relief was to be provided to the people? Who were the decision makers? Was the government providing incentives for rapid development of diagnostics,

medical equipment, vaccines? What specific measures were taken to stop corruption in the procurement of lifesaving medicine, equipment and other health needs? What measures were taken to stop abuse of government’s economic stimulus packages and ensure their fair distribution? Were cabinet ministers taking pay cuts as part of austerity measure of the government? And how the government intends to balance privacy needs with the advantages of digital disease surveillance and tracing.

Looking to the future and recovery, the government can use the RTI principles of transparency and accountability to update the public on its public health improvement plans, and its research and development goals, its investment in social science to prepare better for the trust deficit next time. There are countless questions government can anticipate and provide answers for, without having to be asked through individual RTI applications.

In times of large-scale calamities, like the Covid-19 pandemic, people’s fear increases exponentially; and their need to know what their governments are doing to meet the challenge increases commensurately. In such a situation, governments need to be more careful not only to anticipate people’s concerns but also be adept in answering/assuaging them. Public leaders must be prepared to communicate clearly, consistently, and constantly with the people. They must remember that citizens are prone to be more cooperative when they understand why they are being asked to do or not to do certain things. A “people-first” approach, supported by genuine data, can foster proper public behaviour and discourage those that are harmful. An important lesson that may be drawn from the Covid-19 experience is that without well-tuned government-people collaboration, large-scale catastrophes cannot be handled effectively.

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The seemingly endless road to Palestinian sovereignty

The Israel-UAE deal is yet another instance of Palestine being abandoned by its ‘friends’



SHUPROVA TASNEEM

If empty statements could produce peace, the new Israel-UAE deal, brokered by US President Trump and his son-in-law Jared Kushner, would be the beginning of the end of hostilities in the Middle East. The deal normalises relations between the two countries, making UAE the first Gulf State to establish official relations with Israel; in exchange, Israel have made a vague promise to stop the annexation of parts of the occupied West Bank. The joint statement released by Israel and UAE called it a “diplomatic breakthrough”, with Kushner praising Trump’s role in “making the Middle East safer”.

Israel PM Netanyahu spoke of “expanding the circle of peace” in the region; British PM Johnson tweeted about his “profound hope” that the agreement would lead to “a more peaceful Middle East”; a EU spokesperson called it a “positive step towards regional stability”; and Germany welcomed the “historic” deal that would make an “important contribution to peace.” A UAE spokesperson sentimentally referred to how Muslims would finally have a door to the revered Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem via direct flights from Abu Dhabi to Tel Aviv. Most US media outlets seemed equally gushing in their response—*Wall Street Journal* reported on how officials described Trump as “genuinely touched” by the breakthrough; *The New York Times* called it a “major diplomatic win”; and a *Washington Post* columnist, in all seriousness, called this Trump’s Nobel moment—referring to the “role of modern trios linked in Middle East History by the title ‘peacemaker’.” It is hugely ironic that he referred to the Camp David Accords between Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, Israeli PM Begin and US President Carter in 1978, and the Oslo Accords between Jordan’s King Hussein, Israeli PM Rabin and US President Clinton in 1993 (he failed to mention Yasser Arafat, then chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation) to explain just how important this recent treaty is. The reason that the Palestinians are not mentioned in any of these

examples is because all three times, their voices were ignored, even by the parties that were supposedly there to champion their rights. The Camp David Accords were considered a betrayal by the Palestinians—in exchange for the return of the Sinai (which had been occupied by Israel in the Six Day War), Egypt ignored the right of return of Palestinian refugees and the status of Jerusalem, put the question of sovereignty of the West Bank and Gaza on hold and looked the other way while Israel aggressively pursued the annexation of Jerusalem, the expansion of settlements on occupied territory and the invasion of Lebanon. The Accord completely took the teeth out of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which were adopted after the Six Day War ceasefire and unanimously agreed on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from occupied territories. Similarly, PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, after being banned from the first round of peace talks in Madrid in 1991, bypassed the rest of the Palestinian leadership and opened backdoor negotiations with Israel that led to the signing of the Oslo Accords on August 20, 1993. At the time, the Oslo Accords were hailed as a milestone in Middle East peace negotiations; the fact that three million Palestinian refugees permanently lost the right of return (their homes now belonged to Israel) was quickly swept under the rug. The pre-1948 borders were lost forever as Palestine was divided up into different zones, and Israeli troops and settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continued to grow. Yet even those poorly constructed zones were not set in stone—by 2000, only seven years after the Accord was finalised, 383,000 settlers had moved into West Bank and Gaza, including those in annexed East Jerusalem. In his book *The Great War for Civilisation: The Conquest of the Middle East*, award-winning journalist Robert Fisk wrote, “The Oslo agreement, hatched in secret, heavy with unguaranteed dreams, holding out false promises of statehood and Jerusalem and an end to Israeli occupation and Jewish settlement building, was greeted by the world’s statesmen—and by most of the world’s journalists—as something close to the Second Coming.” Twenty seven years later, the Israel-UAE peace deal—reached eight months after the US president unveiled the “Peace to Prosperity” plan for the region, negotiated by

Jared Kushner without taking into account a single Palestinian opinion—is seemingly being greeted with the same optimism. What do the Palestinians get out of this “historic” deal? At least during Oslo, phrases such as “self-determination”, “sovereignty” and “right of return” were being tossed around, albeit without packing any real punch. This time, all such lofty ideals have been abandoned—the only thing the Palestinians have been promised is that Israel will “suspend” their plans to annex more

humiliating deal for Palestinians—a promise to, for the time being, stop an activity that is considered by all international laws to be illegal, and has been identified as such by multiple UN resolutions. The UAE are claiming this as a diplomatic win that saves Palestinians from losing their land but in reality, Netanyahu’s policies, while popular at home, have been hugely contentious even with his allies, and this deal gives him a way to backtrack for the time being. The Camp David and Oslo Accords are also painful

While this deal is being touted as a breakthrough, the truth is that the UAE, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia have been improving their bilateral relations with Israel for years, cooperating in intelligence sharing, joint military exercises and diplomatic initiatives, united in their collective animosity towards Iran. This feeble attempt at placating the Palestinians while moving forward with the normalisation of relations shows that the Gulf monarchies have lost their patience with the Palestinian cause and are more interested in the political and economic payoffs of cooperating with the US and Israel. That this deal has been finalised between a populist, right-wing leader like Netanyahu and an authoritarian ruler like UAE crown prince Mohammed Bin Zayed, brokered by the most neoliberal US president in recent history, also demonstrates a disheartening trend in global politics—trade and economy continue to trump democracy and human rights. For now, the only friend and ally Palestine might look to might just be Iran, whose President Rouhani has criticised UAE for “a huge mistake, a treacherous act” and warned of severe consequences if an Israeli presence is detected in the Persian Gulf. Some Middle East experts have also focused on the need for a new Palestinian leadership that can represent the aspirations of its people in the wake of the Israel-UAE deal. According to social scientist Dr Carol Kasbari, “Palestinians have been aware of their leadership’s flaws for years, and that is why they are constantly calling to elect a new one. For them, the answer is clear... it lies in electing a new Palestine National Council for all Palestinians and generating the momentum to democratically elect a new leadership of the PLO.” Until then, this fresh betrayal of Palestine might be understood best through the words of Palestinian legislator and scholar Dr Hanan Ashrawi, who addressed Prince Zayed on Twitter and wrote: “May you never experience the agony of having your country stolen; may you never feel the pain of living in captivity under occupation; may you never witness the demolition of your home or murder of your loved ones. May you never be sold out by your ‘friends.’” Shuprova Tasneem is a member of the editorial team at *The Daily Star*. Her Twitter handle is @shuprovatasneem



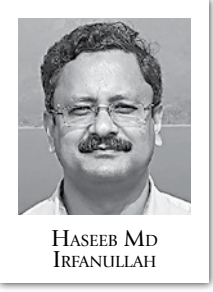
A man reads a copy of UAE-based *The National* newspaper near the Burj Khalifa, in the gulf emirate of Dubai on August 14.

PHOTO: AFP

Palestinian territory. Notice the use of the term “suspend”. According to the BBC, President Trump has confirmed that this in no way permanently halts the expansion of Israeli settlements in occupied territory—all it means is that “right now it’s off the table”. Israeli PM Netanyahu, who had wooed his huge base of right-wing voters by promising the expansion of settlements, said in a public statement—“We received a request to wait temporarily from President Trump. It is a temporary postponement. It is not removed from the table, I am telling you that.” It is difficult to think of a more farcical and

reminders to Palestinians that this promise will likely be as empty as the ones made before, and their Arab neighbours will look the other way as illegal Israeli settlements continue to expand. The new deal may not be “historic”, but it is definitely history repeating itself for Palestine. The fact that UAE officials have spoken of access to Al-Aqsa Mosque via Tel Aviv is adding insult to injury by its acknowledgment of Israeli sovereignty over the highly contentious area—East Jerusalem has been sought by Palestinians as the capital of their future sovereign state, which now seems even more unlikely than ever.

Providing permanent support to the people of Tanguar Haor



HASEEB MD IRFANULLAH

I always wanted to take two photographs of the same spot of Tanguar Haor—one in the driest month of the year and one in the wettest. I was successful in doing so in 2016. It was just remarkable to see how two-thirds of a 12,655-hectare waterbody gets dried up in Chaitra (April), but again becomes so full, like a sea, in Sraban (August), year in, year out! To the readers of *The Daily Star*, Tanguar Haor is quite well-known as a wintering ground of a huge number of migratory water birds coming from the colder north, like China and Mongolia. In January 2019, Bangladesh Bird Club, Bangladesh Forest Department, and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) counted about 150,000 migratory birds belonging to around 40 species—the highest count since 2012—in this wetland. The migratory birds make our Tanguar Haor a “Wetland of International Importance”. Recognising this fact, on July 10, 2000, this freshwater ecosystem was designated as Bangladesh’s second Ramsar Site (Our first Ramsar Site is, of course, the Sundarbans mangrove forest). Despite being a significant hub of global biodiversity with mesmerising scenic beauty, Tanguar Haor has a very depressing past. Since the 1930s till the end of the last century, Tanguar Haor was captured by powerful elites through leasing system that caused rampant exploitation of its fisheries resources. Over those seven decades, Tanguar Haor became a painful example of violating people’s rights. With power, money, and muscle, the leaseholders harshly stopped the poor haor-dwellers from accessing the resources of their haor. Tanguar Haor’s condition deteriorated so much that in 1999 the government had to declare it an “Ecologically Critical Area” (ECA). 2001 was a significant year for Tanguar Haor—the harmful leasing was stopped and, from the Ministry of Land, the management of the wetland was brought under the then Ministry of Environment and Forests. A couple of years later, the government put its resources, through Sunamganj district administration, to guard and to protect Tanguar Haor, which continued until the end of 2006. The National Conservation Strategy Implementation Project in the mid-1990s was the first-ever conservation initiative in Tanguar Haor undertaken by the government. But it was the “Community Based

Sustainable Management of Tanguar Haor” project (Tanguar Haor Project), which began a new era of conserving Tanguar Haor. In December 2006, the Ministry of Environment and Forests started this three-phase project with technical support from IUCN and financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Other national and international NGOs, namely BELA, CNRS, ERA, GUS, and HELVETAS, also got involved in this initiative. That project came to an end in August 2016. Over a decade, a number of major changes were seen in Tanguar Haor. A people-centric system was introduced to sustainably manage Tanguar Haor. There was a three-tier community organisation—at village, union and haor levels—and an inclusive supporting authority led by the district administration.

Tanguar Haor management a strong legal basis. At the end of 10 years, some challenges, however, still remained. The opportunity to improve alternative livelihoods of the local households to reduce their dependency on Tanguar Haor was limited. The capacity of the local community to generate and manage funds and savings was not enough. Local people showed inadequate confidence in the government’s initiatives and commitments for participatory management of Tanguar Haor. Negative propaganda from the local elites against the people-oriented approaches and interventions was another concern. There was a need for additional policy formulation. Translating the government’s policy level commitment on the ground, particularly at the district and sub-

Bridging Phase was to develop a much larger and longer project so that Tanguar Haor management could continue with the local people. But that did not happen by December 2018, when the Bridging Phase ended. Which means, for the first time since 2006, no conservation project has been operating in Tanguar Haor over the past 20 months. Nevertheless, the leadership of the central cooperative society remained vibrant. With a supportive district administration and political environment, they managed to engage in sustainable fish harvesting during November 2019 to March 2020, received their share, and continued with community guarding to protect Tanguar Haor as much as possible. The story so far of Tanguar Haor tells us how a community could be empowered

with other stakeholders to establish and practice their rights. An inclusive governance structure from the village to the ecosystem levels can give space for collaboration. When awareness, capacity, incentives, and governance all come together we can get an empowered community actively participating in ecosystem management. Such a community may, however, only work well, if there is a project acting as a facilitator. But as Tanguar Haor has shown, a supportive policy and legal regime can bring all elements of community-based ecosystem management together and bind them beyond the project tenure. During recent conversations, the local community leadership expressed that they still feel a need for a “new” Tanguar Haor project. The reason for that, however, is not



Same spot in Tanguar Haor photographed in April (left) and August (right) 2016.

PHOTO: HASEEB MD IRFANULLAH

The project built leadership capacity, empowered the local community, and facilitated women’s participation in natural resource management. The haor-dwellers’ right to fish was re-established with a sustainable participatory fish harvesting system. The income from fish harvests was shared among the fishermen (40 percent), the community organisation (36 percent), and the government (24 percent) according to a benefit-sharing protocol approved by the ministry in 2008. Livelihoods of the poor families improved through alternative income generating activities as well as with their own savings. The fish and wildlife sanctuaries, restored swamp forests, and patrolling by community guards protected and improved the haor biodiversity. Legal and policy instruments approved by the government also gave

district levels, was also a challenge. Realising this reality, at the end of donor funding, the government allocated its own resources to maintain the decade-old system in Tanguar Haor. In this unprecedented attempt, IUCN remained the technical lead, supported by CNRS and ERA. The Tanguar Haor Bridging Phase project (2016–2018) continued sustainable fish harvesting, benefit-sharing, and resource protection activities. The Bridging Phase also converted 41 village level community organisations into cooperative societies spread out in Tahirpur and Darmapasha sub-districts of Sunamganj. Under the “Cooperative Societies Act, 2001”, these societies were led by a central cooperative society for the entire Tanguar Haor with representatives from all village cooperative societies. One of the major purposes of the

while sustainably managing an ecosystem. If individuals and households can realise the wider importance of their ecosystems; if they have trust in the system and believe that change is possible—despite a gloomy past; and if their capacity, knowledge, and skills are developed in terms of leadership, fund management, and negotiation, they can move towards empowerment. But soft elements, like awareness raising and capacity building, are not enough to keep poverty-stricken people engaged in ecosystem management. Both households and the community as a whole, need incentives—access to ecosystem’s resources, receiving part of the financial benefits from ecosystem management, availability of better livelihood opportunities and market linkage, and access to saving schemes or loans. Local communities also need to interact

clear. Maybe from past experience, they felt that the currently supportive administrative and political systems may change within a short period of time. A project may always help them as a cushion or a support wing, as they have seen since 2006. The government also feels the need for a project in Tanguar Haor to harness its 12-year investment in participatory ecosystem management. But how long will we manage our precious ecosystems through short-term projects? Can we design a project with the people of Tanguar Haor that will allow them to manage their amazing wetland confidently, on their own and be free from depending on external funding, thus from external influence? Dr Haseeb Md Irfanullah is an independent consultant working on environment, climate change, and research systems. His Twitter handle is @nmirfanullah



World Health Organization
Bangladesh

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)


The World Health Organization in Bangladesh invites proposals/bids using “Two-envelope system” from the interested bidders in Bangladesh for the following service:

1. RFP/BAN/2020/007: To provide support for online teaching-learning of the Undergraduate Students of the Government Medical Colleges in Bangladesh.


Deadline for the submission of RFP: 17:00hrs, 26 August 2020

Interested bidders can view and download the relevant RFP documents from:
<https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/procurement-notice>

Interested bidders are requested to submit separate file attachments for technical and financial proposals in sebanprocurement@who.int



বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন
বিএসসি ভবন, সন্টগোলা রোড, চট্টগ্রাম
Website: www.bsc.gov.bd



তারিখঃ ১৬-০৮-২০২০খ্রিঃ

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশনের বাংলার জোড়ি/সৌরভ জাহাজে নিম্নবর্ণিত পদের বিপরীতে প্রয়োজনীয় সংখ্যক চুক্তিভিত্তিক জাহাজ কর্মকর্তা নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে সংশ্লিষ্ট পদে অভিজ্ঞ ও যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকের নিকট দরখাস্ত ও সিডি (Curriculum Vitae) আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ


ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম
০১।	মাস্টার
০২।	চিফ ইঞ্জিনিয়ার

প্রয়োজনীয় শর্তাবলীঃ

০১। বেতন ও অন্যান্য সুযোগ সুবিধা আলোচনা সাপেক্ষে নির্ধারিত হবে।
০২। বর্তমানে কোনো ভাইরাসজনিত মহামারীর কারণে জাহাজ কর্মকর্তা ও নাবিকদের সাইন-অন/সাইন-অফ এবং অন্যান্য সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে প্রয়োজ্য সরকারি আদেশ, নির্দেশ, পরিপত্র এবং নীতিমালার আলোকে প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।
০৩। অগ্রাহ্য প্রার্থীরা ই-মেইলের মাধ্যমে “মহাব্যবস্থাপক, শিপ পার্সোনেল বিভাগ, বিএসসি ভবন, পোস্ট বক্স নং-৬৪১, সন্টগোলা রোড, চট্টগ্রাম, ই-মেইলঃ TO: gmn-chn@bsc.gov.bd, CC: md@bsc.gov.bd এবং gmn-spd@bsc.gov.bd বরাবরে আবেদন প্রেরণ করতে পারবেন।
০৪। শ্রান্ত আবেদনসমূহ বাচাই-বাছাই করে সময় সময় সাক্ষাৎকার গ্রহণের মাধ্যমে নির্বাচিত হলে সংস্থার প্রয়োজন অনুযায়ী জাহাজে পদায়ন করা হবে।
০৫। নিয়োগ সন্দেশ মোকাদ্দা বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে।
০৬। এ বিজ্ঞপ্তি শুধুমাত্র অনুমানিত মেরিটাইম দিবা প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে ট্রেনিংপ্রাপ্ত ও সিভিলিয়ান অফিসারসম্পন্ন জাহাজ কর্মকর্তাদের জন্যে প্রযোজ্য।

মহাব্যবস্থাপক (শিপ পার্সোনেল)
বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন
বিএসসি ভবন, পোস্ট বক্স নং-৬৪১
সন্টগোলা রোড, চট্টগ্রাম

জিডি-১২৬২




EXPORT IMPORT BANK OF BANGLADESH LIMITED
Symphony, Plot # SE(F): 9, Road # 142, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Invitation of bid for supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Sub-Station Equipment, Generator & Solar Panels for “EXIM TOWER” at Plot No.15, Road No. 15, Block No. CWS(C), Ward No. 19, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212.

01.	Employer’s Name	Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited		
02.	Procurement Method	Open Bidding Method (NCT)		
03.	Budget and Source of Funds	Own Fund		
04.	Bid Document Selling Date and Time	17.08.2020 to 13.09.2020 (During office hours)		
05.	Bid Submission Closing Date and Time	14.09.2020 up to 12:00 PM		
06.	Bid Opening Date and Time	14.09.2020 at 12:30 PM		
07.	Name & Address of the Office selling, receiving and opening Bids	Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited General Services Division Symphony, Plot # SE(F):9, Road # 142, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212.		
08.	Place / Date / Time of Pre-bid Meeting	Office of the Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited General Services Division Symphony, Plot # SE(F):9, Road # 142, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212. Time & Date: 31.08.2020, 11:00 AM		
09.	Package No	02		
10.	Name of Bids	Bid Security	Price of Bid Document	Completion Time
	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Sub-Station Equipment, Generator & Solar Panels	Tk. 15 lac	Tk. 5000.00 (non refundable)	180 days
11.	Eligibility and Qualification of Bidder			
	Bidder must have (a)10 ten years general experience in supply of similar goods and related services (b) successful completion of supply, installation, testing & commissioning of 1600kva sub-station, 3x500kva diesel generator set & 10kwp solar power system during the last 5 years (c) liquid assets or working capital of Tk. 8 crore (d) bidder must have ABC Electrical License. And other qualification criteria stated in bid documents			
12.	Name of Official Inviting Bid	Mohammad Feroz Hossain		
13.	Designation of Official Inviting Bid	Additional Managing Director		
14.	Address of Official Inviting Bid	Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited Symphony, Plot # SE(F): 9, Road # 142, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212.		
15.	Contact details of Official Inviting Bid	Phone: 55045547 Ext: 225 E-mail: gsd@eximbankbd.com		
	The Employer reserves the right to reject all the bids or annul the procurement proceedings.			

Mohammad Feroz Hossain
Additional Managing Director
Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited




EXPORT IMPORT BANK OF BANGLADESH LIMITED
Symphony, Plot # SE(F): 9, Road # 142, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Invitation of bid for supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Passenger Lift & Mechanical Multi-Layer Car Parking System for “EXIM TOWER” at Plot No.15, Road No. 15, Block No. CWS(C), Ward No. 19, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212

01.	Employer’s Name	Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited		
02.	Procurement Method	Open Bidding Method (NCT)		
03.	Budget and Source of Funds	Own Fund		
04.	Bid Document Selling Date and Time	17.08.2020 to 13.09.2020 (During office hours)		
05.	Bid Submission Closing Date and Time	14.09.2020 up to 3:00 PM		
06.	Bid Opening Date and Time	14.09.2020 at 3:30 PM		
07.	Name & Address of the Office selling, receiving and opening Bids	Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited General Services Division Symphony, Plot # SE(F):9, Road # 142, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212.		
08.	Place / Date / Time of Pre-bid Meeting	Office of the Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited General Services Division Symphony, Plot # SE(F):9, Road # 142, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212. Time & Date: 31.08.2020, 12:00 PM		
09.	Package No	03		
10.	Name of Bids	Bid Security	Price of Bid Document	Completion Time
	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Passenger Lift & Mechanical Multi-Layer Car Parking System	Tk. 10 lac	Tk. 2000.00 (non refundable)	240 days
11.	Eligibility and Qualification of Bidder			
	Bidder must have (a)10 ten years general experience in supply of similar goods and related services (b) successful completion of supply, installation, testing & commissioning of 100 Nos. passenger lift & 3 Nos. mechanical multi-layer parking system during the last 5 years (c) liquid assets or working capital of Tk. 5 crore (d) bidder must have ABC Electrical License. And other qualification criteria stated in bid documents			
12.	Name of Official Inviting Bid	Mohammad Feroz Hossain		
13.	Designation of Official Inviting Bid	Additional Managing Director		
14.	Address of Official Inviting Bid	Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited Symphony, Plot # SE(F):9, Road # 142, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212.		
15.	Contact details of Official Inviting Bid	Phone: 55045547 Ext: 225 E-mail: gsd@eximbankbd.com		
	The Employer reserves the right to reject all the bids or annul the procurement proceedings.			

Mohammad Feroz Hossain
Additional Managing Director
Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited




EXPORT IMPORT BANK OF BANGLADESH LIMITED
Symphony, Plot # SE(F): 9, Road # 142, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Invitation of bid for supply, fabrication and erection of Exterior Imported Metal Screen & Aluminium Glazing Works for “EXIM TOWER” at Plot No.15, Road No. 15, Block No. CWS(C), Ward No. 19, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212.

01.	Employer’s Name	Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited		
02.	Procurement Method	Open Bidding Method (NCT)		
03.	Budget and Source of Funds	Own Fund		
04.	Bid Document Selling Date and Time	17.08.2020 to 13.09.2020 (During office hours)		
05.	Bid Submission Closing Date and Time	15.09.2020 up to 12:00 PM		
06.	Bid Opening Date and Time	15.09.2020 at 12:30 PM		
07.	Name & Address of the Office selling, receiving and opening Bids	Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited General Services Division Symphony, Plot # SE(F):9, Road # 142, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212.		
08.	Place / Date / Time of Pre-bid Meeting	Office of the Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited General Services Division Symphony, Plot # SE(F):9, Road # 142, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212. Time & Date:31.08.2020, 2:00 PM		
09.	Package No	05		
10.	Name of Bids	Bid Security	Price of Bid Document	Completion Time
	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of supply, fabrication and erection of Exterior Imported Metal Screen & Aluminium Glazing Works	Tk. 25 lac	Tk. 2000.00 (non refundable)	240 days
11.	Eligibility and Qualification of Bidder			
	Bidder must have (a)10 ten years general experience in similar supply, fabrication and erection works (b) successful completion of supply, fabrication, Installation/erection of exterior metal screen and aluminium glazing works of minimum value of Tk. 10 crore under single contract during the last 5 years. (c) liquid assets or working capital of Tk. 10 crore and other qualification criteria stated in bid documents			
12.	Name of Official Inviting Bid	Mohammad Feroz Hossain		
13.	Designation of Official Inviting Bid	Additional Managing Director		
14.	Address of Official Inviting Bid	Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited Symphony, Plot # SE(F):9, Road # 142, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212.		
15.	Contact details of Official Inviting Bid	Phone: 55045547 Ext: 225 E-mail: gsd@eximbankbd.com		
	The Employer reserves the right to reject all the bids or annul the procurement proceedings.			

Mohammad Feroz Hossain
Additional Managing Director
Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited



EXPORT IMPORT BANK OF BANGLADESH LIMITED
Symphony, Plot # SE(F): 9, Road # 142, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Invitation of bid for supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Fire Fighting (Protection, Detection and Alarm) System for “EXIM TOWER” at Plot No.15, Road No. 15, Block No. CWS(C), Ward No. 19, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212.

01.	Employer’s Name	Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited		
02.	Procurement Method	Open Bidding Method (NCT)		
03.	Budget and Source of Funds	Own Fund		
04.	Bid Document Selling Date and Time	17.08.2020 to 13.09.2020 (During office hours)		
05.	Bid Submission Closing Date and Time	15.09.2020 up to 03:00 PM		
06.	Bid Opening Date and Time	15.09.2020 at 03:30 PM		
07.	Name & Address of the Office selling, receiving and opening Bids	Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited General Services Division Symphony Plot # SE(F) 9, Road # 142, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212.		
08.	Place / Date / Time of Pre-bid Meeting	Office of the Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited General Services Division Symphony Plot # SE(F) 9, Road # 142, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212. Date & time: 31.08.2020, 3:00 PM		
09.	Package No	06		
10.	Name of Bids	Bid Security	Price of Bid Document	Completion Time
	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Fire Fighting (Protection, Detection and Alarm) System	Tk. 03 lac	Tk. 2000.00 (non refundable)	240 days
11.	Eligibility and Qualification of Bidder			
	Bidder must have (a)10 ten years general experience in supply of similar goods and related services (b) Successful completion of at least 2 (two) projects for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Fire Fighting (Protection, Detection & Alarm) System and related services incidental thereto during the last 5 years in any multi storied Bank Head office building, any Government, Semi Government or private multi-storied Building with a value not less than 1.75 crore. (c) Liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit lines of Tk.2 (two) crore and other qualification criteria stated in bid documents.			
12.	Name of Official Inviting Bid	Mohammad Feroz Hossain		
13.	Designation of Official Inviting Bid	Additional Managing Director,		
14.	Address of Official Inviting Bid	Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited Symphony Plot # SE(F) 9, Road # 142, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212.		
15.	Contact details of Official Inviting Bid	Phone: 55045547 Ext: 225 E-mail: gsd@eximbankbd.com		
	The Employer reserves the right to reject all the bids or annul the procurement proceedings.			

Mohammad Feroz Hossain
Additional Managing Director
Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited

In trying to avoid fate, did Pep make it more likely?

AGENCIES, Lisbon

It was another eyebrow-raising call from Pep Guardiola. Perhaps that was the appropriate way to end the night given the self-defeating way he had started it. In his post-match press conference, the Manchester City manager was asked when exactly he told his players about the 3-5-2 formation they set out against Lyon on Saturday night.

Guardiola did not reveal that, but did say the following: "In this competition, tactics are not the most important thing."

important to Lyon and they stuck with what they knew best.

"With Pep, you can expect anything. We knew Pep could concoct something to cause us problems. But in the end I think we won the tactical battle in the sense that we've mastered our tactical system, even if I changed it [during the match]," Garcia said after.

Perhaps Guardiola was thinking of the team that has dominated Europe for the past decade, and how Zinedine Zidane drew match-winning performances out of Real Madrid without doing anything special in terms of tactical ideology.

Maybe he meant that mental character is the most important.

One significant difference is that the Frenchman had a lot of hardened senior players. City do not. They have a squad that look absolutely brilliant when everything is on song, but don't seem to know how to react when it goes wrong. And it now goes wrong every single season in the Champions League, and always before the semifinals.

Kevin De Bruyne's comments after the game made it all the more conspicuous. In a post-match interview that went down a few tangents, and had a few

spiky comments, the Belgian still summed it up. "It feels like the same old story for me, to be honest."

It certainly had all the same details. There were bad misses, bad decisions, questionable calls and a below-par performance. There was chaos. But all of that seemed to stem from the manager's needless adjustments, which resulted in yet another early exit.

There is almost a Greek tragedy element to it. In trying to avoid the fate he fears most, he just makes it more likely. Tactics actually become by far the most important thing in that regard.



Manchester City forward Raheem Sterling shocked the world when, in the 86th minute of their Champions League quarterfinal with his side 2-1 down, he ballooned the ball over an empty net from all of eight yards. Fifty-nine seconds later, Lyon scored and put the game to bed.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Cruelty of football!

REUTERS, Lisbon



The unforgiving nature of football was exemplified by a jaw-dropping miss from Raheem Sterling against Olympique Lyonnais as Manchester City's saw their Champions League dreams disintegrate inside 59 crazy seconds in Saturday's quarter-final.

Sterling was City's leading goalscorer this season with 31 goals and the chance that fell his way late in the game to make the score 2-2 was so simple that he could be expected to bury it with his eyes closed.

But the England forward somehow sent the shot flying over the bar with the goal gaping in front of him, sending a seemingly perfect chance to equalise begging.

The madness continued down the other end as City's defence was sliced open by Lyon and a pedestrian shot from Houssem Aouar was somehow spilled by their ever-reliable goalkeeper Ederson to the feet of Moussa Dembele, who made no mistake to make it 3-1.

From a nailed-on equaliser practically handed to them and a chance to take the game to extra-time, City had suddenly conceded again and were out of the competition they covet most and which their Abu Dhabi owners have spent billions



of pounds to win since buying the club in 2008 but failed to do so.

"That moment sums up this competition," said a distraught Pep Guardiola, a two-times winner of the Champions League with Barcelona who was hired by City precisely due to his track record in the competition.

"In this situation you have to equalise to take it to extra time, but then we concede the third and it's over."

The moment will rank alongside Sterling's late strike against Tottenham Hotspur in last year's competition which was agonisingly ruled out by a VAR review as yet another cruel moment for City in a competition they seem to be finding new ways to not win.

SEMIFINALS

August 18: RB Leipzig vs Paris Saint-Germain
August 19: Lyon vs Bayern.

That is a convenient comment for a manager whose perplexing formation and line-up seemed to level the gap between a squad worth over £900m, his, and one worth around a third of that.

Guardiola, for some reason, decided to play five defenders against a side that had got 40 points from 28 games in Ligue 1, while leaving out four of his most creative players. That seemed very important given it took away so many of City's attacking strengths, while only serving to make them more defensively vulnerable.

On the other side, there was the impressive focus of Rudi Garcia's approach, which ultimately tilted the game in Lyon's favour. They did a number on City, taking advantage of the flaws we have seen time and again. Tactics were certainly



Lyon players celebrate their stunning victory over Manchester City in the Champions League quarterfinals on Saturday night. This season's giant-killers, having slain Juventus as well in the round of 16, are gearing up to take on the ruthless Bayern Munich in the semis.

PHOTO: REUTERS



BACK IN BUSINESS

Tamim Iqbal and Mustafizur Rahman yesterday trained at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur for the first time since the coronavirus-induced break. Although many players had started individual training sessions at BCB facilities across the country more than three weeks ago, Tamim missed those sessions as he was in England. The southpaw was satisfied with the day's work, saying: "I didn't feel uncomfortable for a first day after such a big break. Our target is the Sri Lanka tour and we have sufficient time to prepare ourselves for that tour."

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



An under-19 player gets tested for Covid-19 at the BCB Academy yesterday as a prerequisite for joining a residential camp in BKSP. Around 27 players and support staff got their samples collected on the first day of testing.

PHOTO: BCB

A limited-edition original

MAZHAR UDDIN



Mahendra Singh Dhoni will long be celebrated as the most successful limited-overs Indian captain, and the plaudits have only begun as the cricketer announced his retirement from international cricket on Saturday.

And why not? He is the only Indian captain to have won three ICC trophies -- the 2007 T20 World Cup, the 50-over World Cup in 2011 and the 2013 ICC Champions Trophy -- and he did it with his immense leadership qualities and a calm approach that transformed the side into a formidable force.

But apart from his successful captaincy, Dhoni the cricketer has also set a new benchmark for wicketkeeper-batsmen around the world. Whether it was his unorthodox batting style or unique wicketkeeping skills, Dhoni was highly successful and inspired a lot of wicketkeeper-batsmen.

His astounding numbers in international cricket -- 17,266 runs, 16 centuries, 108 fifties, 359 sixes and 829 dismissals -- reflect his impact on the game.

Since making his international debut in 2004 against Bangladesh, Dhoni consistently caught the eyes for his great presence of mind, ability to read the situation and adapt quickly but calmly both as a batsman and a wicketkeeper.

Dhoni's style of cricket has encouraged many in the Bangladesh team, who learned and adapted such swift techniques.

According to Bangladesh wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Mithun, it was Dhoni who changed the style of wicketkeeping and has taken the craft to a different level.

"Dhoni is one of my favourite players and his ability to handle pressure and remain cool is outstanding. I like his captaincy a lot, his ability to take decisions and be spontaneous. I have never seen him panic and his ability to finish the game is something I try to follow in my game."

"But it's his wicketkeeping,

which I think he has taken to the next level in world cricket. He completely changed it. Previously wicketkeepers used to take more time in collecting the ball and then drag it to the stumps, which is basic, but Dhoni changed it. His flexibility and reflex actually make everything quicker compared to what we used to follow previously," Mithun told The Daily Star.

Another wicketkeeper-batsman, Liton Das, said Dhoni's special technique and ability to remain calm is something the cricketer

would want to learn and embody.

"His keeping technique is quite special and the way he does stumpings is extraordinary. Dhoni has actually changed the way of thinking as a wicketkeeper in his own way, which most keepers are not taught at a young age. But he backed his own technique and he is also a great batsman," said Liton.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Nurul Hasan Sohan was fortunate to have a discussion with Dhoni in 2017.

"I had a chat with him two-three times and every time Dhoni told me that it's important to know your own strengths and focus on your strength. It was in 2017 when I asked him for some time and he spoke with me for around 15 minutes. Previously, us wicketkeepers used to follow Australian or English wicketkeepers and their basics but since Dhoni arrived he actually changed the entire way of thinking in keeping. If I talk about his footwork or ball collecting techniques those are actually very practical and handy. As a batsman or as a leader he was no doubt outstanding and we will miss him in international cricket," Nurul said.

Whether it was his ability to outfox batsmen while waiting for the return throw from fielders or removing the glove from one hand while keeping during the last stage of the innings so that he could more easily throw down the stumps to stop a stolen run, Dhoni had his own style and technique which sets him apart and encourages others to say, 'It's okay to be yourself.'



Millions of cricket fans will miss 'Captain Cool' as MS Dhoni logged out from international cricket with a 16-word post on Instagram on Saturday.

PHOTO: TWITTER

'Dhoni arguably greatest white-ball captain'

AGENCIES



Mahendra Singh Dhoni is arguably the greatest white-ball skipper in the history of the game, former England captains Michael Vaughan and Nasser Hussain said in a tribute to the Indian who quit international cricket on Saturday.

Known for his unflappable demeanour, 'Captain Cool' Dhoni led India to World Cup titles in 2007 (Twenty20) and 2011 (ODI), besides overseeing their 2013 Champions Trophy triumph.

Hoisting the inaugural World T20 trophy in Johannesburg, in a half-sleeved India vest in 2007 and hitting that six in the 2011

World Cup final against Sri Lanka at Mumbai's Wankhede stadium, which instantly became an iconic moment in cricket and established the man who started out as a railway ticket collector as one of the game's greats, will forever remain etched amongst memorable moments.

Hard-hitting, unruffled no matter the pressure, the record of India's most successful captain will be virtually impossible to beat.

India also became the top-ranked Test team under Dhoni..

"What an incredible international career. You could argue the greatest ever white ball captain & finisher," tweeted Vaughan.

Hussain also praised Dhoni's ability to finish a game in style, best

illustrated in the final of the 2011 World Cup when Dhoni sealed India's victory with a six.

"A great captain, probably the best white-ball captain there has ever been," Hussain told Sky Sports.

"And also a cool, calm customer under pressure; a great finisher of a game, the game wasn't won until you got Dhoni out."

Dhoni aggregated 17,000 runs across formats and claimed more than 800 victims as wicketkeeper.

Shane Warne was another admirer of Dhoni's phlegmatic brand of leadership. "He had a calmness about him that was fantastic and he always got the best out of his team..." Warne told Sky Sports.

Many will remember him as an

accumulator of runs after being appointed India's one-day captain in 2007, but it was his style which set Dhoni apart.

Cricketers from across the globe and Indian media paid tribute to the glittering career of Dhoni, who was fondly called 'Mahi' by his teammates.

Players and fans Sunday urged India's cricket board to retire Mahendra Singh Dhoni's number seven jersey in a tribute to the two-time World Cup winning captain.

There is no provision to retire jerseys in cricket, unlike in football. But the BCCI unofficially retired batting great Sachin Tendulkar's number 10 shirt a few years after his retirement.



AUG 17 SERIES BOMB BLASTS JMB weak but still a threat

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Militant outfit JMB that struck terror across the country in 2005 has almost no strength to carry out any organised attack, but it is still a threat, counterterrorism officials believe.

Its chief is still out of the dragnet while some of the outfit members who walked out of jail after serving their sentences in cases filed over a series bomb blast have gone into hiding and they are trying to recruit new members, they said.

The law enforcers said since many of the cases were filed under the Explosive Substances Act and the highest punishment is 10 years' imprisonment, many of the convicts already completed their jail terms.

Police failed to give the exact number of the JMB extremists who walked out of jail.

On this day in 2005, banned terror outfit Jama'at-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) almost simultaneously detonated 459 bombs in 63 out of 64 districts across the country.

After the synchronised attacks, 160 cases were lodged across the country. Police have completed probes into the cases.

They submitted the final reports in 17 cases and charge sheets in 143 others. In the charge sheets, 1,157 JMB leaders and activists were named as accused, the law enforcers said.

Of the accused, around 1,000 militants were arrested. There is no updated data about how many of them are now behind bars.

"Though most of the JMB members lead a normal life after walking out of jail, some 20 to 30 old JMB operatives have gone into hiding and are trying to recruit members,"

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Without any protective gear, a man carries a sack of raw cement materials, including fly ash, clinker, and gypsum, from a boat in Chattogram city's Sadarghat on Saturday. The tiny substances could enter body and cause diseases. Inset, a truck is being loaded to take those to a cement factory.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



Heavy rain forecast for today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country may see heavy rain and thunder today, while the sea will grow rough, as monsoon is active across the country, the Met office said.

According to Bangladesh Meteorological Department, most places in Khulna, Barisal, Chattogram, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions, and many in Rangpur, Rajshahi and Mymensingh divisions will face moderate to very heavy rainfalls.

There has been light to heavy rain in many parts of the country since yesterday due to the impact of low pressure generated in the Bay of Bengal a few days ago, said meteorologist Bazlur Rashid.

He said the situation will improve from August 17 but moderate to heavy rain will begin again from August 19, also due to low pressure in the Bay.

All maritime ports have been asked to hoist local cautionary signal number three as a well-marked low

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

HASINA MEDICAL COLLEGE

ACC sues principal, suppliers for graft

They allegedly pocketed Tk 3.43cr

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

There is a common public perception that processes for government works are slow but they speed up when vested interests are involved.

A recent enquiry by the Anti-Corruption Commission shows why it is so.

It took only six days from awarding a contract to disbursing nearly Tk 4.5 crore by the authorities of Sheikh Hasina Medical College in Habiganj.

By inflating prices of items several times higher, principal of the college Dr Md Abu Sufian and two suppliers pocketed nearly Tk 3.43 crore back in 2018.

Yesterday, the ACC filed two separate cases

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES Bangladesh becomes member of IMF, World Bank



Bangabandhu leaving London Clinic on August 14, 1972

August 17, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGLADESH ENTERS WORLD'S FINANCIAL COMMUNITY

Bangladesh today officially enters the world's financial community, a much required move for the new nation's economic development. SA Karim, charge d'affaires of Bangladesh Embassy in Washington, today signs and accepts the agreement making his government a member of the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) and its affiliate, International Development Association (IDA). "This will lead to a fruitful association and contribute positively to the development of our resources," says SA Karim after the signing ceremony.



SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

58 clinics, diagnostic centres closed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Health department officials have shut down at least 58 private clinics and diagnostic centres in different upazilas of Patuakhali on various charges, including operating without registration, non-renewal of registration and not having related facilities.

Seven of these facilities have been closed permanently while the authorities of the others have been asked to halt their operation until further notice.

A team of the health department led by district civil surgeon Jahangir Alam visited 149 clinics and diagnostic centres in eight upazilas of the district throughout the last week and issued the shutdown orders on Thursday.

According to sources, many of these facilities were operating without registration while some

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AI helps Japanese recall war days



AP, Tokyo

When Tokuso Hamai saw the colorized version of an old black-and-white photo of a picnic held under cherry tree blossoms sometime before World War II, forgotten memories of family members, most of whom died in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945, came pouring out.

"In colorized photos, people come to life," said Hamai, now 86. "I often played near (the picnic site), and sometimes I would do some naughty things and get scolded by my father."

The power of a colorized photo to reignite lost memories was eye-opening for Anju Niwata, a

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Bangladeshis stuck in Vietnam returning

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Around 150 Bangladeshi migrants, who faced exploitation in Vietnam, are finally flying home tomorrow in a chartered flight arranged by the Bangladesh government.

"They will be flying in a US-Bangla chartered flight on August 18," Bangladesh Ambassador to Vietnam, Samina Naz, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Apart from migrants, eight Bangladeshi businessmen

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 17

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:25 12:45 4:45 6:38 8:00
JAMAAT 5:00 1:15 5:00 6:41 8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Covid-19 tests drop again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health directorate yesterday reported 2,024 Covid-19 new cases and 32 deaths from the highly transmissible virus as the number of tests decreased again.

In the 24 hours till 8:30am yesterday, a total of 10,018 individuals' samples were tested.

The positivity rate was 20.2 percent.

The 32 deaths over that period took the total number of coronavirus-related deaths in the country to 3,657.

The overall death rate stands at 1.32 percent of all confirmed cases.

With yesterday's figures, the total number of confirmed Covid-19 cases rose to 2,76,549 -- 20.45 percent of the 13,51,666 people tested since January 21.

In the same 24 hours, 1,315 people have recovered from their illness.

As of yesterday, a total of 1,58,950 patients -- more than 57 percent of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8



Tamanna Akter teaching some children, who belong to low-income families, at a Pearabagh house in the capital's Moghbazar as their schools are closed due to the pandemic. She does not take any fees from the children. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

India's Covid-19 tally rises to 2.5 million

Death toll nears 50,000

AGENCIES

A massive surge of over 63,000 new coronavirus infections since Saturday has taken India's tally past 25.89 lakh cases, the Indian Health Ministry said yesterday, adding that more than 900 Covid-linked deaths were recorded in the period.

India has been reporting more cases in a day than the United States and Brazil, which have a higher caseload, for the last 12 days, according to the World Health Organization data.

As many as 63,490 new Covid-19 cases were detected, and 944 people died due to the virus in the country in the past 24 hours.

There are still 677,444 active Covid-19 cases in India, while a total of 1,862,258 people have been successfully cured and discharged from hospitals across the country.

The recovery rate of Covid-19 cases has risen to nearly 72 per cent, even as the death rate has come down to below 2 per cent, the ministry said.

Over the past weeks, India has ramped up the testing of samples.

Till Saturday a total of 29,309,703 samples has been tested, out of which 746,608 samples were tested on Saturday alone, said the Indian Council of Medical Research.

Indian scientists have been working on developing Covid-19 vaccine.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated in his Independence Day speech on Saturday that as many as three vaccines were in different stages of trials.

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